

Working Together for the Early Years Conference

Saturday 9th March 2019

Scottish Storytelling Centre



09:00 – 09:30		Registration and networking
09:30 – 09:45		Introduction and welcome from Sue Palmer (Upstart) and Elaine Bennett (KEYU)
09:45 – 10:15	Keynote 1	Kathryn Solly – Grasping the thistle
10:15 – 10:45	Keynote 2	Suzanne Zeedyk – Where does play fit with attachment theory?
10:45 – 11:15	Keynote 3	Kym Scott - The power of play
11:15 – 11:45		Comfort break, tea and coffee
11:45 – 12:15	Keynote 4	Deidre Grogan - There are no high heels or a home corner in Primary 1
12:15 – 12:45	Keynote 5	Elaine Bennett – Climbing the stairs, resisting the lift! Developmentally appropriate practice in Primary 1
12:45 – 13:15		Q & A session
13:15 – 14:15		Lunch and networking
14:15 – 15:00	Workshops	Facilitated by Heather Armstrong, Martine Leitch and Juliet Robertson
15:00 – 15:30	Keynote 6	Claire Warden – The art of being with nature inside, outside and beyond.
15:30 – 15:45		Call to action Elaine Bennett and Sue Palmer
15:45 – 16:00		Q & A session
16:00 – 16:30		Conference closing remarks, followed by networking
16:30		Conference close

Twitter – Please use the hashtag **#upstartKEYU** to share your thoughts.

Kathryn Solly – Grasping the thistle



Kathryn's Bio

Kathryn has taught across all the phases of education including a short time in an Albanian kindergarten. She became the Head teacher of Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre for nearly 17 years. Here Kathryn developed an inclusive high achieving learning community in cosmopolitan Chelsea building upon creative quality learning inside and out started by COA's founder – Dr. Susan Isaacs. Kathryn concentrates on specialist early years consulting, training and authorship across the whole sector. She is Vice Chair of the Early Childhood Forum, a Froebel Trust Travelling Trainer, Early Education Associate and an administrative member of Keeping Early Years Unique.

Keynote 1 – Main points

Suzanne Zeedyk – Where does play fit with attachment theory?



Keynote Overview

Many people think of attachment theory as concerned primarily with closeness and bonding. This keynote by Suzanne Zeedyk will explain why this is too limited a description. Attachment Theory is actually concerned with the balance of closeness vs distance, of safety vs risk, of familiarity vs adventure. Play takes us into the zone of adventure. It is essential that young children spend plenty of time in that zone, because without it they cannot thrive or develop healthily. Suzanne will reflect on what this emphasis means for practice and policy in the early years sector.

Keynote 2 – Main points

Kym Scott – The power of play



Kym's Bio

Before becoming a freelance consultant, Kym Scott was firstly an early year's teacher and senior leader in London schools. She then went on to lead the Early Years Team in the London Borough of Lewisham for 15 years, supporting the schools and early years settings there in achieving the highest outcomes in the country for children, through a play based, child centred approach.

Keynote 3 – Main points

Deidre Grogan – There are no high heels or a home corner in Primary 1



Deidre's Bio

Deidre works at the University of Strathclyde with a remit for training in the early years. She has been involved in researching effective pedagogy within primary 1 and have been sharing key findings with Local Authorities in Scotland.

Keynote 4 – Main points



Elaine Bennett – Climbing the stairs, resisting the lift! Developmentally appropriate practice in Primary 1

Elaine's Bio

Elaine Bennett is currently EYFS and Year One Leader at Friars Primary School and Nursery in Southend, Essex. After many years teaching in EYFS she has now taken on the challenge of building on Early Years pedagogy and principles in her year one environment where she currently teaches. Elaine also supports practitioners around the country promoting a playful approach to early maths through training and her popular books. Elaine is the founding member of the hugely successful “Keeping Early Year Unique” network, which has over 43,000 members.

Keynote 5 – Main points



Claire Warden – The art of being with nature inside, outside and beyond.

Claire's Bio

Claire is an internationally recognised specialist in early years education with a passion for connecting children to nature. She is a pioneering expert in nature pedagogy and has written over 20 books including Learning with Nature and Nature Kindergartens and Forest Schools. Claire opened Scotland's first Nature Kindergarten in 2007 and the award winning Auchlone Nature Kindergarten in 2008. She is an advisor to international governments on nature-based education and is the CEO of Mindstretchers Ltd and Living Classrooms CIC.

Keynote 6 – Main points



Heather Armstrong – Workshop 1

If you want children to have a voice, give them ways to speak, and something to talk about.

This workshop examines how some current models of child-led practice and participation may actually perpetuate inequity, and how a play-based approach to the expressive arts can be used to inspire and empower young children.

Heather joined Starcatchers after eight years working with young people in Glasgow, in some of the most deprived communities in Europe. She believes passionately in the power of the arts to transform lives and tackle inequalities, and working with our youngest members of society seems the best place to start.



Martine Leitch – Workshop 2

Developing creative learning through possibility thinking.

This workshop will explore the importance of creativity in schools as an attainment strategy. We will explore the dilemma of balancing structure and freedom and adult and child-initiated learning within our current approach to curriculum design. This workshop aims to challenge traditional norms in Primary education and explore ways in which possibility thinking can transform teaching and learning.

Martine is a Headteacher in Glasgow City Council and has recently been working with primary practitioners to ‘transform the Primary 1 curriculum, connecting pedagogy, policy and research to promote creativity and inquiry. Martine has also worked as a teaching fellow with the University of Strathclyde and she has experience of teaching in both Malawi and New Zealand.



Juliet Robertson – Workshop 3

Messy Maths

Do your children love jumping in puddles, climbing trees and playing in a sandpit? It is time to view what children do outside through a mathematical lens. This workshop is about identifying the math’s in children’s play and how to extend this through examining the 5Rs: Routines, Resources, Responsibilities of adults, Rights of a child and Re-imagining the outdoor space.

Juliet is an education consultant who specialises in learning and playing outdoors. In a former life she was the head teacher of three schools ranging in size from 6 to 277 pupils. Juliet is in heavy demand world-wide for her practical training. She is the author of two award-winning and best-selling books: Dirty Teaching and Messy Maths. Her blog, I’m a teacher, get me OUTSIDE here! Is a source of information and support with more than one million visitors in the past four years.

	<u>Workshop – Main points</u>
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Places to eat on the day

The Storytelling Centre has a Café. The Café menu has many products suitable for a variety of dietary requirements, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and dairy free options. Alternatively, you can visit one of the nearby food outlets.

St Mary Street**Procaffenation – 07480641806 (Kaz)**

Home-made soup - £4.50

Others: sandwiches and cakes

The Fig Tree Bistro – 0131 556 69 63

Home-made soup

Baked Potato - £6.95

Others: Paninis, curries and cakes

Across from the Storytelling Centre**Café Keno – 0131 556 37 99**

Fish & Chips - £10.95

Others: pizzas, burgers and baked potatoes

Same side as the Storytelling Centre**Café Edinburgh**

Soup - £4.50

Fish & Chips - £10.75