

Saturday 6 March 2021
9am-4pm



Be inspired
**Froebel Trust
Conference:
Growing
through play**

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Conference Delegate Pack

We are delighted to welcome you to the Froebel Trust Conference, 'Growing through play'.

All of the projects you will hear about today have been funded by the Froebel Trust.

We would like to thank all the presenters for taking part and sharing their work with us.

In this pack you will find:

- Conference Zoom Joining Instructions
- An introduction to Froebelian Principles
- Conference Programme
- An introduction to our conference speakers

The conference will be recorded and available to view on our website later this month.



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About us

The Froebel Trust funds research into children's learning from birth to eight years and supports high quality early education.

Our charity's work is based on the principles of Friedrich Froebel, the inventor of kindergartens and a pioneer of early childhood education and care.

We believe in the importance of play, learning through nature, practical hands-on learning and nurturing a child's connection to their community.

Find out more about our work at froebel.org.uk

The Froebel Trust is a registered Charity No: 1145128 Registered as a Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No: 07862112. Registered office at Clarence Lodge, Clarence Lane, Roehampton, London, SW15 5JW.

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Conference Zoom Joining Instructions

When you registered for the conference you will have automatically been sent an email with a link to join the conference on the day.

This link will be sent out to you again on Friday morning. Please check your junk mail if you do not receive the link to your inbox. If you have not received your link by Friday midday, please email office@froebeltrust.org.uk and your link will be sent to you again.

Please note we have 3000 delegates registered, so please do check if you have received your link before you contact us.

Please join the webinar by 8.55am on Saturday morning. If the webinar is not yet live when you click the link, you will be held in a waiting room until we open the conference.

Your link will allow you to join all of the sessions, and if you come out of the conference at any point in the day, you will be able to use your link to re-join.



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The Zoom link you receive is unique to you.

Please do not share or forward it to anyone else or you may have difficulty accessing the conference if your link is already in use.

If you lose internet connection or have trouble hearing the presentations, please re-join using the original link.

The conference sessions are being recorded and will be available to view on our website in around two weeks time. We will send notifications via social media once they are ready to view.

You can post and follow updates during the conference on Twitter @FroebelTrust

Please tweet using the hashtag #Froebel2021

After each session there is a short Q&A. Please add your questions to the Q&A function on the webinar platform. The session Chairs will only raise questions posted in the Q&A option and will not be monitoring the chat function.

If you have any questions, please email office@froebeltrust.org.uk



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Froebelian principles



Friedrich Froebel (1782–1852) was the inventor of kindergartens and a pioneer of early childhood education and care. Froebel’s work and writing changed the way we think about and value early childhood.

Froebel’s ideas were considered revolutionary in the 1850s but the principles of his work have since become part of modern, mainstream early years educational practice.

Unity and connectedness

Everything in the universe is connected. The more one is aware of this unity, the deeper the understanding of oneself, others, nature and the wider world. Children are whole beings whose thoughts, feelings and actions are interrelated. Young children learn in a holistic way and learning should never be compartmentalised for everything links.

Autonomous learners

Each child is unique and what children can do rather than what they cannot, is the starting point for a child’s learning. Children learn best by doing things for themselves and from becoming more aware of their own learning. Froebelian educators respect children for who they are and value them for their efforts. Helping children to reflect is a key feature of a Froebelian education.

The value of childhood in its own right

Childhood is not merely a preparation for the next stage in learning. Learning begins at birth and continues throughout life.

Relationships matter

The relationships of every child with themselves, their parents, carers, family and wider community are valued. Relationships are of central importance in a child’s life.



Creativity and the power of symbols

Creativity is about children representing their own ideas in their own way, supported by a nurturing environment and people. As children begin to use and make symbols they express their inner thoughts and ideas and make meaning. Over time, literal reflections of everyday life, community and culture become more abstract and nuanced.

The central importance of play

Play is part of being human and helps children to relate their inner worlds of feelings, ideas and lived experiences taking them to new levels of thinking, feeling, imagining and creating and is a resource for the future. Children have ownership of their play. Froebelian education values the contribution of adults offering 'freedom with guidance' to enrich play as a learning context.

Engaging with nature

Experience and understanding of nature and our place in it, is an essential aspect of Froebelian practice. Through real life experiences, children learn about the interrelationship of all living things. This helps them to think about the bigger questions of the environment, sustainability and climate change.

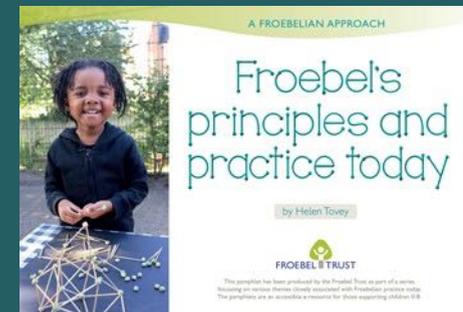
Knowledgeable and nurturing educators

Early childhood educators who engage in their own learning and believe in principled and reflective practice are a key aspect of a Froebelian approach. Froebelian educators facilitate and guide, rather than instruct. They provide rich real life experiences and observe children carefully, supporting and extending their interests through 'freedom with guidance'.

Find out more about a Froebelian approach to early childhood education at froebel.org.uk

Find out more about Froebel's principles in our Froebel Trust pamphlet 'Froebel's principles and practice today' by Helen Tovey.

Free to download at:
www.froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/pamphlets



Conference Programme

9.00 am Welcome from Mark Neale, Froebel Trust Chair of Trustees

9.05 am **Young Voices on Covid**

Session Chair: Sally Cave

- An exploration of the Froebel Storytelling Approach in support for young children through the Covid-19 pandemic

Chris Pascal and Tony Bertram (Centre for Research in Early Childhood)

9.50 am Break (10 minutes)

10.00 am **Nature Play**

Session Chair: Helen Tovey

- Forest Skills: Julia Dixon (Inclusion and Well-being Service, West Lothian)
- Mini Muddy Fingers (Plant. Create. Play. Educate): Louise Strong (NECA) & Kate Razzall (Froebel Travelling Tutor)

11.10 am Break (10 minutes)

11.20 am **Musical Play**

Session Chair: Holli Williams

- Let's Play: Samantha Lane (Little Angel Theatre)
- Singing with Baby: Rachel Tonkin (Family Lives)
- Mapping Emerging Musicality, exploring musical development in the early years: Angela Voyajolu, (University of Roehampton)

12.45 pm Break (30 minutes)





Conference Programme continued:

13.15 pm Slow Pedagogies

Session Chair: Sacha Powell

- Slow Knowledge and the unhurried child: time for slow pedagogies in early childhood education
Alison Clark (University of South East Norway)

14.00 pm Break (10 minutes)

14.10 pm Froebelian Approaches in the Nursery Community

Session Chair: Jane Whinnett

- Play, Sing, Talk, Read: A Froebelian approach to language development
Petra Adams, (Balgreen Nursery School)
- A Collegiate Enquiry-Based Approach to Developing Froebelian Principles and Occupations: Sewing and Clay: Catriona Gill (Greengables Nursery School and Family Centre)
- Connect - A nursery community approach to play: Elaine Fullerton (Hope Cottage Nursery School)
- Staff CPD to Develop Musicality in a Froebelian Setting: Debby Hunter (Annan School) and Mark Broad (Music Leader)

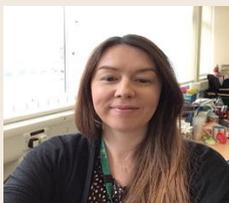
15.55 Closing remarks from Jane Whinnett

Conference ends at 4pm

Introduction to our conference speakers



Professor Tony Bertram & Professor Christine Pascal are Directors of the Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) and hold several honorary professorships from UK Universities. With Prof. Ferre Laevers, they set up the European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) in 1991 and both have been editors of its SSCI-rated journal. Professor Pascal was awarded the OBE by the Queen for her services to early childhood in 2001. They have both been specialist advisers to the UK Government for more than 20 years. They have undertaken many national and international research projects for the UK Government, the OECD and charitable funders such as the Sutton Trust but their major interest is in rigorous and systematic professional enquiry which has meaning and relevance for practitioners. They have published widely and their major interest is in developing high quality services for young children and their families. Recently they have undertaken several evidence reviews for the EYFS and the Early Years Workforce and are documenting the impact of the COVID-10 pandemic on children and families and on early years services.



Julia Dixon works as a teacher for the Inclusion + Wellbeing Service in West Lothian. The service provides support for over 600 children and young people in West Lothian. Her role is to support children with additional support needs within their mainstream schools. She has worked within the ASN sector for over 10 years.



Louise Strong joined NECA, a small regional charity in the North East of England in 2007 as a Human Resources Assistant. In 2010 she was promoted to HR manager and her role has grown since then to incorporate not only HR, but Health and Safety, Training and Business Development and her current Development role. In 2018 Louise's responsibilities expanded further to include the Community Garden project; a project that she loves being involved with both practically and strategically as it brings communities and families together.



Kate Razzall has spent most of her adult life in the north of England, teaching in Early Years in Manchester, largely in schools with high levels of deprivation, asylum seekers and refugees. She has had a great deal experience of teaching children with EAL. She went as the third teacher to the Kolkata Project, funded by the Froebel Trust. This was a project working alongside untrained teachers in charity schools to develop their understanding of Froebelian principles and practice, and thus to improve the quality of education these schools offered to the poorest children. As a Froebel Travelling Tutor she has trained adults in a variety of settings, ranging from a maintained nursery school to a community allotment. She now lives near Middlesbrough in the north east of England.



Rachel Tonkin, Director of Communications, joined Family Lives in 2012 following a merger with Parenting UK where she was Head of Communications. Before working at Parenting UK Rachel worked for The Stroke Association and Ofsted. As Director of Communications Rachel oversees all Family Lives communications work with a wide variety of stakeholders and is currently overseeing a three-year digital innovation project.



Samantha Lane is the Artistic Director at Little Angel Theatre. She was formerly Director of Projects at the Almeida Theatre where she made theatre for, by and with young people aged 14-25, and set up a Facilitation PGCert in partnership with RCSSD; and Education Manager at the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, where she created numerous Theatre-in-Education shows for primary and secondary schools, as well as directing community plays with casts of 60+ people. Samantha has also worked at The V&A Theatre Museum, as a secondary Drama Teacher and on various freelance theatre/education projects - including working in Singapore and Canada. Samantha completed an MA in Text and Performance at KCL and RADA in 2010; and she is author of *Directing Young People in Theatre: A Guide to Staging Plays with Young Casts* (Macmillan). She also completed the Froebel Professional Development Certificate in Early Childhood in 2020.



Angela Voyajolu recently completed her PhD in the School of Education's Applied Music Research Centre at the University of Roehampton, funded by the Froebel Trust. Her research explored early childhood musical development. Angela is Music Operations Manager for the Amber Trust, a charity which provides musical opportunities for blind and partially sighted children and is a Music Therapist at the Children's Trust, where she works with children and young people with acquired brain injury.



Alison Clark a Visiting Associate Professor in Early Childhood Education at the University of South-eastern Norway and is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at UCL Institute of Education, London. Working with Professor Peter Moss she developed the Mosaic approach, for listening to and engaging with young children's perspectives. Since the first study published in 2001, this approach has been adopted and adapted internationally by researchers and practitioners in early childhood and in other disciplines. Her current research on slow pedagogies in early childhood education is funded by the Froebel Trust. Alison combines her academic work with her practice as a visual artist. Blog about slow knowledge-
<https://alisonclarkinthemaking.wordpress.com>



Petra Adams is a Principal Teacher at Balgreen Nursery School where she has worked for 15 years. She has completed the Froebel Certificate at Edinburgh University and has gained a PgCert in Collaborative Working: Education and Therapy at Queen Margaret's University, Edinburgh.



Catriona Gill is Head Teacher of Greengables Nursery School and Family Centre in Edinburgh, providing Early Learning and Childcare for children aged 3-5, based on Froebelian principles. She is one of the organising members of the Edinburgh Froebel Network working to disseminate Froebelian practice within Scotland and beyond, through conferences, training and collegiate working. She is also a member of the Communications Committee of the Froebel Trust. Catriona is an Associate Tutor at the University of Edinburgh, teaching on the Froebel in Childhood Practice courses. She contributed a chapter to *Putting Storytelling at the Heart of Early Childhood Practice* (Bruce, McNair & Whinnett eds., 2020).



Elaine Fullerton has over 20 years experience as a Nursery Teacher and 10 years as a play therapist. She is a graduate of the Froebel and Childhood Practice Course, University of Edinburgh. Elaine has shared her practice through research projects, workshops and presentations. She is particularly interested in listening to the stories that children communicate to us in their play and on the qualities of relationship that best support children to flourish and grow. Elaine has developed a parent/child community project titled “Connect”.



Mark Broad is a singer, musician and writer, with a background in the publishing and audio industries. He became a music leader with schools and community groups through projects with Sing Up, Glyndebourne Education and Claque Theatre. Since training with the Voices Foundation and working for them as an advisory teacher, he's been more closely involved with supporting music in Early Years.



Debby Hunter is Principal of Annan The Froebel School, East Sussex. Debby started her teaching career as a primary teacher in London in the 1980's. In 2001 she established a Froebelian kindergarten in East Sussex with her husband Mark and this grew into the only primary school with a Froebelian pedagogy for children aged 2-11 in the UK. Debby has completed the Froebel Certificate in Early Childhood at Roehampton University, is a member of the Froebel Travelling Tutor team and in 2019 gained an MA in Early Childhood Studies at the University of Roehampton.



Join us at our next Froebel Trust event

Webinar: Where are the babies?

Saturday 20th March 10am to 12.35pm

Exploring outdoor provision from birth to two



Find out more and register for this free webinar at froebel.org.uk

Make sure to sign up to the Froebel Trust mailing list to get all the latest information about upcoming events and webinars at www.froebel.org.uk/newsletter-signup