

# Early Education

The British Association for Early Childhood Education

in partnership with:



Alfreton Nursery School  
Teaching School Alliance  
'Growing together'



## Early Years Teaching Newsletter September 2018

**A huge and happy welcome back to the new term and academic year. Welcome to colleagues, friends, new readers and members.**

### **Pedagogy, play and learning**

We start off by hearing one of our Associates, Julie Fisher talking about interacting and interfering (also the title of her book), on this [interview with Kathy Brodie, on Early Years TV](#) (30 mins listen). *If you are quick to click on this link, by Friday 28th you can catch this interview for free. After this date, it will be superseded by a new interview.*

Another great pedagogical gem is this blog [An argument for discovery in the early years classroom](#) written by Peter Ford and Ruth Swailes. It discusses the many methods used by teachers in early years to “teach” through enabling environments, scaffolding, modelling, problem solving, child-initiated play, play-partnering, and more early years pedagogic tools. The blog states:

“Experienced discovery teachers will understand the relationship between direct instruction and child- initiated learning. An appropriate balance between the two ensures that the latter re-enforces the former.”

Thank you to Dr Debra Kidd for sharing this in her [Schools week Top blogs of the week](#) September 2019. I am sure that you will find the other blogs she selected also useful.

The findings from the paper [Play and pedagogy by Elizabeth Wood and Liz Chesworth](#) (see the “key messages” downloads section using this link) state that “play is a golden thread that runs through much of the literature related to learning and development”, that “the tensions between adult-led and child-initiated play remain evident...” and “children’s interests are evident in play, which has the potential to strengthen curriculum and pedagogical decisions.” The paper is a powerful piece on preserving, valuing and affirming play in the EYFS and you can access it for free.

If, like me, you find research in early years matters essential reading, the full paper on this and others highly relevant to our practice, are included in the [BERA-TACTYC Early Childhood Research Review 2003-2017](#) (see the “full report” section in downloads, using this link). This is an invaluable resource to accompany and inform our practice.

### Transitions

[How to build positive relationships in early years](#) is an article by Early Education member Nicky Clements for the TES giving tips on supporting the settling process and building that crucial relationship with parents as partners.

Nicky’s article quotes an interesting piece of very recent Canadian research by Janine Hostettler [Schärer](#) [How educators define their role: building professional relationships with children and parents during transition to childcare: a case study](#). I think that this paper could be very useful for reflecting and improving transitions and settling-in journeys within your setting. Thank you to Nicky for highlighting this research.

Whilst pondering attachment-related pedagogy and practice and related to transitions, “being able to snuggle in” I think

has always been my favourite phrase. It is taken from the “[A strong child: a sense of belonging](#)” card in the archived *Birth to Three Matters* guidance. There is so much rich content that is still relevant today for 0-3s that I would encourage you to refer to. You can find the resources on the [Foundation Years website](#) (scroll down the page to Birth to Three Matters).

### Data and research

If like me, you are grappling with the issues and ethics around testing and data in early childhood, you might find this paper helpful to read. [Hyper-governance and datafication in early years education: children as “abilities-machines” or “like sausages in a factory”](#) by Alice Bradbury, Siew Lee and Guy Roberts-Holmes, UCL Institute of Education, Aug 2017, on the BERA (British Educational Research Association) Blog Research Matters. Thanks to our Early Education Associate and member, Nathan Archer for signposting me to this link.

### ACEs

If you didn’t already know, Scotland is pioneering becoming an ACE Aware nation. ACEs stands for Adverse Childhood Experiences and we have included much information on this in previous newsletters (more on our [pedagogic page](#)).

This week American paediatrician Dr Nadine Burke Harris is presenting at their conferences in Glasgow, which you can follow on Twitter [@AceAwareNation](#) [#ACEAwareNation](#). Nadine was interviewed on [Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September](#) (listen from approx. 27 mins in until 36 mins in).

### Useful links in short

Here are some more useful links. Pick and choose as you wish from the selection below

- [Libby's autism blog](#) on Twitter is an excellent account giving great information and understanding about living with autism for Libby, who is ten. Libby is the daughter of Kim Scott, one of our Early Education Associates. The truth and insight that Libby shares is extremely enlightening and brave too, it is well worth looking up.
- A really interesting TEDx talk [Learning through imagination and play](#) from Adrian Camm, Director of teaching and learning at the Centre for learning, research and innovation (CLRI) in Australia. He speaks about flow, innovation, imagination and play. (This is a 15-minute listen.) He states, "the value of any curriculum is as a framework for creating experiences that are personally meaningful, real, relevant and authentic..." (12 mins in). He ends by saying "don't be afraid to be different"!
- This short video (only 1.5 mins) from Andy Hargreaves is about the concept of [Collaborative professionalism](#) in which he shares you can have "better relationships, more expertise, greater focus" through this approach. This introduction is part of a [series of videos](#) supporting the implementation of collaborative professionalism.
- I have shared the [Collaborative Professionalism research report by Andy Hargreaves and Dr Michael T O'Connor](#) in a previous newsletter and encourage you to use it in to inform your leadership and practice. There is also a new book out with the same title.
- [The General Teaching Council for Scotland's blog](#) written by Charlene Simpson, Senior Education Officer gives further information about the concept of Collaborative Professionalism.

Please keep signposting me to links and great articles to share and let me know if you are looking for anything in particular – I am always happy to hear your comments and feedback.

*All the best, Cathy Gunning*

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This newsletter is designed to be read on screen so you can click through to the links (underlined in the text).

Don't forget we also upload lots of it into our member's pedagogic pages so that you can look it up there at a later date if you don't have time to read it all now.

**We welcome your feedback on the content and design of this newsletter.** Please email [cathy@early-education.org.uk](mailto:cathy@early-education.org.uk)

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