

Early Education

The British Association for Early Childhood Education

in partnership with:



Alfreton Nursery School
Teaching School Alliance
'Growing Together'



Early Years Teaching Newsletter

December 2018

Welcome to the last edition of our teaching news for 2018.

This month's news takes on a slightly different style at this festive time, with a "pick'n'mix" of longer listens for you to choose from.

I am sure that you will need a good rest after so many weeks of leading, pioneering, teaching and caring for our youngest children. So, these longer listens below have been selected to support both your pedagogic inspiration and restoration this month.

Longer listens

1. Aspects of early years maths

[How early years children develop mathematical thinking](#) (a 33-minute listen). This is a superb podcast from the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM website) that accompanies their new early years section. These experts in early years maths talk us through eight aspects including comparison, cardinality, subitising, conservation, composition, pattern, shape and space, and measures. Their pages of [early years resources](#) have more on these key areas of mathematics.

2. Interview with Helen Oxenbury

It is no surprise that I am a huge fan of picture books and their authors and illustrators. An [interview with Helen Oxenbury on Radio 4 woman's hour](#) (this is at 36.55 minutes in, for a 6-minute listen) is an absolute treasure and a great treat. I

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love hearing about how she drew the bear in “We’re going on a bear hunt” to portray the emotion saying, “Well, it’s all in the shoulders”. (I have written more about this and other picture books in a [previous newsletter](#)).

3. Becoming, by Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama has recently released her book called *Becoming*. You can [hear her read from her memoirs in five episodes on Radio 4](#) (*the omnibus is a 1 hour 10 minute listen – but hurry, the podcast expires Christmas Eve*). I found listening to her story, sharing her journey and convictions extremely uplifting.

This article in the TES [Michelle Obama “moved, touched and inspired” by London school girls](#) shares more about her visit to the UK.

4. School readiness

[School readiness: the flaws every teacher needs to know about](#) (a 34-minute listen) TES podogogy is with Dr Louise Kay who researches early childhood education. This interview is both in-depth and informative and is an essential listen for us all involved in early years. Louise clarifies the difference between transition into school reception class from home or other setting, and the transition into year one, and the skills and expectations from different stakeholders. She also talks about developmental readiness, and different perspectives in this “school ready” concept.

Longer watches

5. Inspiring mathematics

[Five principles of extraordinary math teaching](#) (a 15-minute watch and you can skip the adverts) by Dan Finkel, TEDx Rainier. This is a stimulating talk about inspiring mathematics and promoting inquisitive children, asking open questions and reassuring us that we do not need to know all the answers, but that we can find

out together. “Not knowing is not failure: it is the first step to understanding”, Dan states. He also affirms that play is where mathematical thinking can flourish, saying: “We have the power to help mathematical thinking to flourish everywhere”.

6. Babies and their wonderful world

[Babies: their wonderful world](#) (a one-hour watch per episode) is a series of 3 programmes featured on BBC Two entitled “Becoming you”, “Becoming social” and “Becoming independent”. The episodes share research, experiments and knowledge about baby and child development in the first two years.

They are narrated by Dr Guddi Singh who is a developmental paediatrician working in Newham, East London. She is interviewed about her work and this series on [BBC Radio 4 Woman's hour](#) (from 32.45 mins in: a 10-minute listen).

7. PEDAL seminar: prescription for play

Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, who many of us heard speak at our Early Education Annual National Conference last May presents [A prescription for play: why play fosters social and cognitive development](#) (a 1 hour listen) at the Play in education, development and learning (PEDAL) seminar in May 2018.

[The whole PEDAL video collection](#) is an early educator’s delight with so many videos of experts talking about aspects of play and pedagogy. Take your pick from their archive.

Shorter listens and links

- **Hearing about autism from Libby**

Regular readers will have seen that I have featured Libby’s work before. Libby is Kym Scott’s 11-year-old daughter, who blogs about what autism is like for her. She recently presented at the Autism Dialogue conference and you can [hear her talk about](#)

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some autism stereotypes that relate to her (a 3.5-minute watch), encouraging us all to understand further.

- The wisdom we gained from **Rod Parker-Rees' keynote** is now filed in our pedagogic pages for members to return to, or you can look back in the newsletter archive.

Pedagogic pointers

Last month we started this new feature to support your staff meetings and team dialogues and to develop and reflect on pedagogy. We will continue these from January 2019. They are there to support you and are now filed in our new pedagogic pointers section in the member's area on our website. I would be very interested to receive key questions or themes that you would like me to write some reflective questions around. Please tweet or email me your ideas.

And finally,

I always enjoy looking out for the new picture book animation on television at Christmas every year. This year, Zog comes to BBC1 and this link gives you more information.

Have a good break

May I wish you a very happy break or happy end of term when it comes. I look forward to writing our New Year edition which will be out at the end of January 2019.

Best wishes, Cathy Gunning

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Follow Cathy on Twitter [@earlyed_cathy](https://twitter.com/earlyed_cathy)

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

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