

# Early Education

The British Association for Early Childhood Education

in partnership with:



Alfreton Nursery School  
Teaching School Alliance  
'Growing together'



## Early Years Teaching Newsletter May 2019

A warm welcome back after the Easter break and hopefully you had some time to rest and replenish.

### Invigorating your pedagogy

Sometimes we all need a little injection of something new to inspire our pedagogy and practice. In this issue there are some articles you might enjoy for this purpose.

### Loose parts

[Loose parts play across South Lanarkshire](#) is a video explaining this approach.

Headteachers and teachers talk about how the children play together across phases – promoting harmonious interactions, negotiation and cooperation. Loose parts play supports wellbeing and personal, social and emotional development (PSED) as well as Science, Technology, Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

### Block Play

[Blocks! Back in the spotlight again](#) is an article supporting the great benefits of block play and how it is such an essential feature in early learning.

Community Playthings also have a booklet: [I made a unicorn!](#) (PDF)

### More on play

To promote outside play, Creative Star's Juliet Robertson has written a blog called [No more cable ties – here's some alternatives](#) which is an excellent go to piece about connecting materials for

supporting and facilitating learning and play outdoors.

There is a [Virtual special issue on play](#) just out from the European Early Childhood Education Research Journal (EECERJ). Using this link you can access free articles on play until the end of October 2019.

## Inspiring leadership

[Coaching for teaching and learning: a practical guide for schools](#) is a thorough guidance report by Rachel Lofthouse, David Leat and Carl Towler. It provides information and guidance to start or support you in using coaching, including the value of video.

[Taking charge?](#) is an article by Anni McTavish, an Early Education Associate, in Foundation Stage Forum and is a useful, encouraging read for all managers and leaders of early years settings.

## Twitter for CPD?

Like me, you may find Twitter an excellent source of information, content and news. The article [Twitter: a professional development and community of practice tool for teachers](#) by Fernando Rosell-Aguilar discusses the use of twitter, hashtags, and in connecting others.

## A longer listen

If you have some time and want to develop or learn more about nurturing creativity, you could tune it to this webinar recording [What is creativity, why is it important, and how can you help children to develop it?](#). This is a 52-minute watch from the American National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It was recorded in 2016 with Dr Rebecca Isbell and Sonia Yoshizawa, who wrote a book about nurturing creativity.

## Thinking about nurture and love

[Nurture.... Or is it love?](#) This blog by Hazel Whitters discusses the power of nurture and the concept of professional love.

[Professional Love in Early years Settings \(PLEYS\)](#) was a research project led by Dr Jools Page to give confidence to early years practitioners who work closely with young children. The website is dedicated to the concept and project with free resources and an [Attachment toolkit](#).

An article written by Dr Jools Page and Dr Peter Elfer (an Early Education Vice President) entitled [Pedagogy with babies: perspectives of eight nursery managers](#) (2015) is a powerful paper to consider if working with babies and young children. It discusses findings and conclusions around pedagogy, being informed by parents and babies, local communities and practitioners.

You can also read this Nursery World article [Love love love](#) (2015) by Dr Page for more information.

Adoption UK have made a new film about seeing “past the behaviour” and seeing the whole child – and how we can respond in ways to reduce not increase stress: [Understanding Nia](#).

The International Journal of Nurture Education (IJNE) features an article entitled [Attachment and learning – the links between early experiences and responses in the classroom](#) by Dr Heather Geddes. She ends by reflecting

*I would argue here that attachment theory is a core aspect of our understanding of the issues affecting learning and performance in the classroom with implications for the wellbeing of the teacher. Understanding the causal factors can enhance the opportunities for teachers to use their teaching skills in a way that supports a*

*wider range of pupils and relieves the tensions they frequently have to work with.*

## **And finally**

Anne O'Connor an Early Education associate and Dr Kath Dickinson have written a very useful multi-part series in Nursery World about [Sensory Processing](#) (articles are from January 2019 onwards). They feature extensive information about all the senses (the five external and three internal senses) with reference and resource lists. The articles are online but do require a Nursery World member log in.

We like to hear about your research, successes and news so that we can share it with others, so please do get in touch.

*Have a great month. All the best,*

*Cathy Gunning*

E: [cathy@early-education.org.uk](mailto:cathy@early-education.org.uk)

Follow Cathy on Twitter [@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](mailto:cathy@early-education.org.uk)

---

© Early Education 2019

*This newsletter was produced by Early Education, in association with the following Early Years Teaching Schools, and is made available for free to Early Education members and members of the Teaching Schools Association below. If you wish to circulate it beyond those groups, please seek permission from Early Education:*

*Acorns Early Years Teaching School Alliance, Alfreton Nursery School Teaching School Alliance, Barnet Early Years Alliance, The Birmingham Nursery Schools Teaching Alliance, The Bradford Birth to 19 TSA, Durham Primary Teaching School Alliance, Cornwall Early Years Teaching School, Early Foundations Teaching School Alliance, East London Early Years and Schools Partnership, Foundations Teaching School Alliance, North Liverpool Teaching School Partnership, Oxfordshire Teaching School Alliance (OTSA), Peter Pan Teaching School Alliance, South Thames Early Education Partnership, Warwickshire Consortium Teaching School, West Ipswich (Early Years) Teaching School Alliance.*

## **Early Education**

The British Association for Early Childhood Education  
54 Clarendon Road  
Watford WD17 1DU

T: 01923 438 995

E: [office@early-education.org.uk](mailto:office@early-education.org.uk)

[www.early-education.org.uk](http://www.early-education.org.uk)

Charity registered in England and Wales no. 313082,

Charity registered in Scotland no. SCO39472

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England no. 395548