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**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
AND AGM**

**Thursday 5th and
Friday 6th June 2014**

**Hilton Templepatrick Hotel
and Country Club**

**Supporting Children to
Realise their Potential
The Importance of
Self-Regulation**

Keynote Speakers:

Dr Stuart Shanker
Distinguished Research Professor
Director, Milton and Ethel Harris
Research Initiative

Dr Sue Bredekamp
Early Childhood Education
Consultant and Author

The Early Years International Conference and
AGM 2014 will be hosted by the Carrickfergus,
Newtownabbey and Larne Branch
of Early Years

SPECIAL OFFER

Early Bird!

Complete your booking online either on or before **9th May 2014** to avail of a **20% discount**. Bookings received after this date will be charged at the full rate. There can be no exceptions.

early years
the organisation for young children

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO ONLINE BOOKINGS
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Who should attend?

This conference will be valuable to parents and anyone who works with young children including local and national government officers, Early Years Specialists, managers and practitioners, SureStart Coordinators and staff, nursery and childcare providers, management committee members, health professionals, education and health and social care trust, childcare students and community partnerships.

Some great reasons why you should attend the conference!

- Learn from professionals and key experts
- Refresh and enhance your knowledge
- Network with others
- Pick up educational resources
- Hear and learn practical take home messages
- Take part in relevant discussions and debates
- Learn about new products and services
- Enhance your continuing professional development

What delegates said about last year's event!

"A fantastic event that was really inspirational and supportive. Full of up-to-date key information that will add to and enhance practice."

"I have gained invaluable knowledge which I will use within my role. I gained insight into different practices which I can adapt to my own practices and experienced a very enjoyable and informative field visit."

"Wonderful programme! Made me rethink what we could do at our setting to inspire our little people."

"So inspiring to see what others are doing and to go home with a revitalised view of our own programme."

"Opportunity to network with key experts and avail of their knowledge."

Overnight Accommodation

The Hilton Templepatrick Hotel and Country Club are offering single rooms from £90 B&B. Call today to make your reservation on 028 9443 5500 and quote "Early Years Conference".

Alternative accommodation details are available on our website www.early-years.org



CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE



THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 2014

FIELD VISITS

8:30am to 9:00am

9:30am to 12:00noon
12:30pm

MASTER CLASSES

8:30am to 9:30am
9:15am to 9:25am
9:30am to 12:30pm
12:30pm to 1:45pm
1:45pm to 4:45pm

GALA DINNER

7:30pm to 7:45pm
8:00pm to close

Registration and refreshments at Hilton Templepatrick Hotel
Coaches departing from the Hotel at **9:00am sharp!**
Choice of visit
Return to hotel for lunch and exhibition

Registration
Opening Session
Choice of Master Class (MC1, MC2, MC3 or MC4)
Lunch and exhibitions
Choice of Master Class (MC5, MC6, MC7 or MC8)

Welcome Reception
Gala Dinner
Presentation of Early Years and HighScope Accreditation Certificates and
All Ireland Centre of Excellence Awards

FRIDAY 6TH JUNE 2014

8:30am to 9:00am

9:00am to 9:15am

9:15am to 10:00am

10:00am to 11:00am

11:00am to 1:00pm

1:00pm to 2:00pm

2:00pm to 3:30pm

3:30pm to 3:45pm

Registration and exhibition

Welcome and Opening Address

KEYNOTE BY DR SUE BREDEKAMP

“The joy of learning: effective practices in early childhood education”

Dr Bredekamp will describe evidence-based teaching practices that support young children’s development and learning. These developmentally appropriate, effective strategies engage children and promote their love of learning, while also reflecting the enduring values of early childhood professionals.

Early Years Annual General Meeting (Members only)

Presentation of Volunteer Awards

Exhibition viewing, networking and refreshments (Non-members)

Choice of Seminars

Lunch and exhibition

KEYNOTE BY DR STUART SHANKER

“The Development of Self-Regulation”

Recent advances in developmental neuroscience are dramatically altering attitudes towards the possibility of maximising the educational potential of every child. Scientists now understand that the better a child can self-regulate, the better they can rise to the challenge of mastering ever more complex skills and concepts. But what exactly is self-regulation, and why is it so important for learning? Dr Shanker speaks about the nature of self-regulation; the experiences that promote the development of self-regulation and the factors that can impede its development; and what teachers can do to enhance the self-regulation of each and every child in their classroom.

Closing Session, refreshments and exhibition

FIELD VISITS

The field visits are planned for early years practitioners and teachers. Hosted by Early Years members, they provide an opportunity to see and experience at first-hand how young children are supported in early years settings in the local area.

Abbey SureStart (Newtownabbey) works with families and children under four in part of the Newtownabbey area. We provide a range of services to improve outcomes for children and families including Two Year Old Programmes, parenting programmes, crèches and Health Visitor, Speech and Language, and Family Support Workers support.

Hansel and Gretel Pre-School (Glynn) is based in the Village Hall and has been providing a service to the local community and beyond for the last nineteen years. We are an accredited group and have recently had a Department of Education Inspection where in all the areas inspected it achieved 'outstanding'.

Jolly Tots (Antrim) is a private nursery which has been in operation for almost 17 years. We cater for children aged six weeks to 11 years providing a safe, homely and caring environment.

St Bernard's Playgroup (Newtownabbey) provides a high standard of care and early years education in a friendly, safe and stimulating environment where children are safe, healthy and can express themselves confidently. We foster a strong working partnership between parents/carers and staff.

MASTER CLASSES

The master classes are targeted at early years specialists, early years social work teams, inspectors, advisers, tutors, lecturers, academics, researchers and early years practitioners, particularly those in a lead role. The master classes offer participants up to date information on theories and research, techniques and strategies for supporting practice development. The master classes will encourage discussion and learning within the participant groups.

Choices for Morning Session (9:30am to 12:30pm)

MC1 Effective curriculum and intentional teaching

In this master class participants will discuss current, research-based curriculum and teaching practices that are effective in promoting children's development and learning in the areas of language, literacy, mathematics and social-emotional development. These practices engage children's interests while promoting development of self-regulation and executive function abilities.

Dr Sue Bredekamp Ph.D is an early childhood education specialist from Washington, DC who serves as a consultant on developmentally appropriate practice, curriculum, teaching, and professional development for state and national organisations such as NAEYC, the Council for Professional Recognition, Head Start, and Sesame Street. Dr. Bredekamp is the primary author of the 1987 edition of NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs, and co-editor of the 1997 and 2009 revisions. She is the author of the introductory textbook, *Effective Practices in Early Childhood Education: Building a Foundation*, 2nd ed., published in January 2013. Dr. Bredekamp is Vice President of the Board of the HighScope Educational Research Foundation.

MC2 Helping children become calm problem solvers

We need our children to become calm problem solvers in order to find the courage and creativity to address the challenges of peace building that they will be faced with as they grow and take charge of our world. This session is for anyone who directly or indirectly wishes to help children become more regulated and resilient. We will review the principles of regulation and resilience as well as techniques to achieve this in settings ranging from home to school to clinic, and we will talk about policies that can support the development of regulation and resilience in children.

Dr Joshua Feder is the Director of Research in the Graduate School of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders PhD program in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Developmental Disorders, and a voluntary Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine. Dr Feder teaches, writes, conducts research, trains clinicians, and advocates for evidence-based practices. Dr Feder serves as medical director at SymPlay, developing interactive technology and distance learning systems to support relationship-based interventions. Dr Feder has an active private practice in Solana Beach, California, seeing infants through adults and their families to address neuropsychiatric challenges. Dr Feder's lectures can be found at circlestretch.com, and he can be contacted at joshuafedermd.com.

MC3 Solihull Approach

The Solihull Approach model of containment, reciprocity and behaviour management is an integrated model developed for professionals working with families with children and young people aged up to 18; the Approach promotes emotional health and wellbeing. Training courses include Antenatal, Fostering and Adoption, Whole School Training and a Parenting programme; all are supported by a comprehensive resource pack. An online parenting course is also available.

Rachel Morgan is a National Trainer for the Solihull Approach. Her background as a Qualified Social Worker, registered adult psychotherapist and an Associate Teacher Learning and Skills has given her extensive experience of working with individuals, families and groups. Her work focuses on promoting wellbeing, facilitating positive relationships and enabling people to fulfil their potential.

MC4 Promoting improvement through internal and external evaluation

This master class is of interest to all who work across the 0-6 sector and who wish to improve the quality of their own provision or have a role in supporting others to improve. The session will be interactive with a focus on improving quality in early years provision. Participants will be given the opportunity to reflect on key findings from external evaluations, including recent main findings and trends from Education and Training Inspectorate reports from across the pre-school sector in Northern Ireland. The importance of rigorous internal self-evaluation, leading to effective development planning for improvement, will also be discussed. Case studies will be used to demonstrate how good self-evaluation and development planning have led to improvement in a range of different pre-school settings. The master class will also challenge participants to reflect on an element of their own practice with a view to using self-evaluation more effectively to bring about improvement.

Rodney McMaster has worked in almost all phases of education for 23 years, as a teacher, senior manager, and inspector. Mr McMaster is currently Managing Inspector for 0-6 provision across Northern Ireland.

Kathleen Cassidy and **Briege Lyttle** have been practitioners and inspectors of early years for many years.

Choices for Afternoon Session (1:45pm to 4:45pm)

MC5 Mastering the Foundations of Self-Regulation

The critical element in the implementation of self-regulation strategies is meeting children at their developmental level. There is a temptation to rely on meta-cognitive terms that the child is not yet able to process. Even something as basic as learning strategies for being calmly focused and alert involves an experiential, emotional and cognitive element that might be beyond the reach of a child who is chronically dysregulated. In this master class we will explore the importance of enabling such children to truly grasp the meaning of 'calm'.

Dr Stuart Shanker is Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy, Psychology and Education at York University. He was educated at Oxford, where he obtained a First in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Magdalen College and won the Marian Buck Fellowship at Christ Church. Among his awards are Canada Council Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships; a Calgary Institute for the Humanities Fellowship; the University of Alberta Mactaggart Fellowship; an Iszaak Walton Killam Fellowship; and the Walter L Gordon Fellowship at York University.

MC6 So what's the story? Story-telling for inclusion

Storytelling plays an important part in helping young children develop language and listening skills, imagination and empathy. Stories can entertain, educate, inspire and encourage. The diverse composition of early childhood settings brings many challenges as well as many opportunities for practitioners. With the knowledge of effective strategies, practitioners can create early year's settings that are inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of all children. This practical master class will share ideas on developing, selecting, preparing and presenting stories which promote inclusion.

Liz Weir is a storyteller and writer with an international reputation. Liz has written the scripts and books for the Media Initiative for Children Respecting Difference Programme, three stories for the Family Health Initiative programme and 'Tales of the Road' a story about Traveller life.

Eleanor Mearns is Programme Consultant for Inclusion in Early Years and has led in the development of the Media Initiative for Children Respecting Difference Programme. The programme targets children aged 2-6 years old and uses stories and messages creatively for inclusion.

Clionagh Boyle has worked for the past six years as a Senior Early Years Specialist with Early Years where her work is currently focused on children, parents and early years educators living in interface communities in Northern Ireland.

MC7 Who I am, how I feel and what I do

Social and Emotional Development: Supporting Feelings and Emotions with Young Children.

In the HighScope Pre-school Curriculum, children's learning is organised into eight content areas. This master class, on the content area of Social and Emotional Development, will give participants an opportunity to explore the nine Key Developmental Indicators within this area - self-identity, sense of competence, emotions, empathy, community, building relationships, cooperative play, moral development and conflict resolution. It will also discuss some of the research in this area and identify both general and specific teaching strategies to support the 9 KDIs in Social and Emotional Development on an ongoing daily basis.

Elaine Sterritt works for Early Years and is the HighScope Consultant in Ireland. Elaine supports other HighScope Endorsed Trainers and also continues to work as Trainer and Early Years Specialist with a range of settings which use the HighScope approach or are interested in adopting the approach within their settings.

Imelda Madigan works for Early Years and is an Endorsed HighScope Curriculum trainer and Siolta mentor. Imelda facilitates training programmes for both preschool and infant and toddler staff and provides on site support and training to further grow quality with services. Imelda also works with parents sharing the learning which further supports children's personal learning goals in the home.

MC8 Eager and Able to Learn

This master class will look at how we can support two year olds to reach their full potential using the Eager and Able to Learn programme. This master class will focus on building resilience and strengthening social and emotional wellbeing as a pre cursor to cognitive development. The master class will also focus on the importance of supporting parents in the home environment so that they can enhance approaches and strategies developed within pre-school settings, day nurseries and SureStart projects.

Dr Marleen Collins has recently taken up the post of Director of Programme Implementation, Training and Evaluation with Early Years. Dr Collins, in her previous role with the Education and Training Inspectorate, managed a group of inspectors working in pre-school settings and the foundation stage..

Ena Shaw has been employed by Early Years since 1994 and for the past nine years as a Senior Early Years Specialist. Ena has responsibility for developing training programmes and developing and assessing standards to promote quality development in both pre-school and full day care settings.

SEMINAR SESSIONS

The seminars are targeted at all early childhood practitioners including pre-school leaders, pre-school assistants, pre-school teachers, nursery assistants, day care workers, family support workers, project workers, SureStart workers and parents. The seminars will provide practical advice, tips and techniques which practitioners can implement within their own settings.

S1. Provocations for Play

Young children love exploring and manipulating materials, a sheet can become a roof, an empty box a spaceship, pebbles magic charms. Young children are drawn to creative materials which stimulate and promote thinking. Environments should provide a place where every child has the opportunity to explore, learn and develop in partnerships with sensitive, knowledgeable adults. There should be access to prompts, artefacts and provocations to stimulate ideas and thought journeys. It is vital that we remember to empower parents in being playful in this way with their children. During the session delegates will consider possibilities of enhancing their space to ensure every play experience is exciting and eventful, identify the provocations they could use to involve children in creative thinking, and explore various techniques and strategies to engage parents in the day to day thinking and creativity of their children.

Alice Sharp is the MD of Experiential Play a training company which specialises in working with staff, parents and local authorities concerned with the provision of play and stimulation for children aged birth to eight years. In the past seven years she has launched Wonderbox, an educational resource company whose resources are based on ideas she has tried and tested and are now sold across the globe. She works with the Welsh and Northern Ireland education authorities addressing the imminent changes towards experiential learning throughout nursery and primary schools.

S2. Sensory Play

The senses are the most familiar and basic way to explore the world around us. Children should continually be on a journey where everything they see, smell, hear, taste and touch delights the senses. We must allow young children to learn through experience. Come and join us on a journey of exploration through the senses.



Ena Shaw has been employed by Early Years since 1994 and for the past nine years as a Senior Early Years Specialist. Ena has responsibility for developing training programmes and developing and assessing standards to promote quality development in both pre-school and full day care settings.

Marie Wilson has been employed by Early Years since 1998 as an Early Years Specialist. Marie has a BEd (degree in Early Childhood Studies) and more recently completed the HighScope Training of Trainers. Marie's experience includes 13 years in a day care setting and adult teaching in the early years sector.

S3. Take the risk – play outside!

This seminar will explore the importance of outdoor learning - how to get out there and organise your outdoor play and how to manage risk. It will include examples of Rosaleen's own practice in the UK and the influence of Swedish pedagogy.

Rosaleen Joyce has been a teacher for over thirty years with a passion for outdoor learning - strongly influenced by Swedish pedagogy. Upon retirement, Rosaleen completed a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education and retrained as an outdoor learning consultant with LTL. Rosaleen has published three books and is currently exploring the possibility of introducing the Swedish model to the UK.

S4. Open-ended and block play

This seminar will combine hands on practical activity with theory about how block play supports all areas of learning. We will recount some of our own experiences with children, view new footage of children playing and involve participants in group work/play. Why is it that often the construction area belongs almost exclusively to the boys? What can we do to make children who don't normally gravitate to this area feel at home? What is the role of the practitioner?

Martin Huleatt provides training and training resources at Community Playthings. After studying Architectural Engineering at Penn State University, he designed several nurseries and also worked as a teacher with reception and key stage one children for three years. Since moving to England in 1999 he has also been involved with Community Playthings' room layout service, working with hundreds of nurseries and schools from across the UK.

S5. Overview of equality legislation and best practice

This seminar will focus on the specific responsibilities that are relevant to those with line management/supervisory responsibilities. It aims to give an awareness of the principal anti-discrimination laws and explores the concepts of direct and indirect discrimination and the reasonable adjustment duty as well as the particular requirements of Northern Ireland's Fair Employment legislation.

Una Chambers is employed by Early Years as a HR Project Officer. Una is an Associate Member of the CIPD and has a BSc Hons Degree in Occupational Psychology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resources Management.

S6. Who I am, how I feel and what I do

Social and Emotional Development: Supporting Feelings and Emotions with Young Children. In the HighScope Pre-school Curriculum, children's learning is organised into eight content areas. Within each content area, the HighScope approach identifies key developmental indicators that are the building blocks of young children's thinking and reasoning. This seminar will give an overview of the nine key developmental indicators which are contained in the content area of Social and Emotional Development: self-identity, sense of competence, emotions, empathy, community, building relationships, co-operative play, moral development and conflict resolution. This seminar will also explore general teaching strategies to support children's development in this area.

Elaine Sterritt works for Early Years and is the HighScope Consultant in Ireland. Elaine supports other HighScope Endorsed Trainers and also continues to work as Trainer and Early Years Specialist with a range of settings which use the HighScope approach or are interested in adopting the approach within their settings.

Aira Oates is a HighScope Endorsed Trainer and HighScope Development Worker employed by Early Years. Aira is based in the Southern Board Area and supports both PEAG and non-PEAG settings which implement the HighScope Curriculum. She runs the HighScope Curriculum courses, cluster training sessions, conducts site visits and offers ongoing support in developing the HighScope Curriculum within settings.



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