

The childcare and early years conference 2026 by

coram pacey

Saturday 28 February 2026, LONDON

Agenda





Great Hall: Talks

AGENDA

10.00-10.10 Ka Lai Brightley-Hodges | Hello and welcome

10.10 - 10.55 | Penny Tassoni MBE | Baby steps: why first transitions matter

With the advent of government funding, there is increased demand for baby places and home-based childcare professionals are stepping up to meet the demand. In this keynote Penny Tassoni, the renowned and respected education consultant, author and trainer, will consider the developmental needs of babies aged 9-12 months and the importance of this first transition on a baby's holistic development. She will also consider practical strategies that home-based childcare professionals can use to support both babies and their parents in their first transition into early years.

11.00 - 11.40 | Dr Shaddai Tembo | Inclusion, equity, and belonging: a social justice approach to early childhood

Frameworks in England and Wales highlight the importance of equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and the need to ensure that every child is included and supported. But what does this mean in practice and how can early years professionals take purposeful action to meet this commitment? Drawing from the forthcoming book *Social Justice in the Early Years: A Toolkit for Educators*, Dr Shaddai Tembo, an inspiring speaker, trainer and lecturer in early years, explores what a social justice approach can look like in everyday pedagogy. With a focus on critical reflection, power, and the lived realities of children and families, Shaddai offers both provocation and practical strategies to help practitioners create environments where all children are recognised, valued, and able to truly flourish.

11.40-12.00 Break

12.05 - 12.45 | Lucy Lewin | The power of you

Lucy Lewin, will deliver an empowering talk on how you can be the one to make a difference in the lives of children and families whilst building a sustainable and successful childcare business at the same time. Lucy brings over two decades of expertise in early childhood education, driving strategic growth and operational excellence in the sector and she is going to help you change how you look at your childcare business. From funding and operations to personal strengths and motivations, it's time home-based childcare professional feel empowered to grow their childcare businesses and take over the sector!

12.45- 13.45 Lunch

Please note, lunch is not included in the ticket price. Please bring your own lunch or purchase from a number of cafes, supermarkets and shops nearby. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.



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Great Hall: Talks

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13.35 - 14.10 | Panel discussion | The power of home-based childcare

For our panel discussion we are delighted to be joined by experienced and inspirational home-based childcare providers including childminders and nannies. They will share their own personal experience of how their unique home setting, care and education has changed the lives of children. From that much needed support for children with SEND/ALN to the growing trend of wraparound only businesses, we explore how our panel have changed and adapted their business but still understood the importance of the home-based setting.



14.15 - 14.55 | Carol Payne | Communication supportive practice

Carol Payne, Deputy Chief Executive at Speech and Language UK will give an overview of the current context of speech, language and communication in the early years. Then, with a focus on outdoor space, she'll explore communication supportive practice. You'll learn about the new childminder training programme from Speech and Language UK and throughout the session there will be chances to reflect on practice and consider positive changes that can be made to better support children and families.



14.55- 15.10 Break

15.15 - 16.00 | Prof Sam Wass and Dr Gemma Goldenberg |

Born to learn: boosting young brains through everyday moments

Young children's brains are wired for learning - faster, more flexible, and more absorbent than at any other time in life. In many ways, young children's brains actually outperform our own! In this uplifting session, Neuroscientist Prof Sam Wass and Early Years education expert Dr Gemma Goldenberg will explore the wonder of early learning - how early brain development gives children a unique edge in picking up language, patterns and emotions. You'll discover how simple, everyday interactions can make a big difference when they're matched to children's natural strengths and developmental stages. Whether you're a childminder, nursery practitioner or parent, you'll leave with fresh insights and easy-to-use strategies to support learning and development in the most powerful years of life.



16.00-16.10 Thank you and invitation to drinks reception

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Courtyard Room: Workshops

AGENDA

12.00- 12.45 | Workshop 1 | Ofsted inspection changes: Ask your questions

Following the renewed Ofsted inspection approach that came into effect in November, this workshop is your opportunity to speak to Ofsted directly and ask any questions you may have about inspections, understand how the changes will affect your childcare business and find out how the pilot and first wave of inspections have gone. Have you already had your first inspection under the renewed approach and want to give your honest feedback? Now is the time!



12.45- 13.35 Lunch

14.00-14.40 | Workshop 2 | It's your business, protect yourself

Join Gary Harrison, from Morton Michel for a workshop designed to give you the tools and confidence to have those difficult conversations with parents and put robust policies in place to reduce the risk of unpaid childcare fees and ultimately the risk to your business. This workshop will also expand on the process providers may need to go through when facing allegations or a suspension of licence to prepare you for all possible outcomes and detail what support is available along the way.



Upper Hall: Exhibitor space, drinks reception

All day | Early years exhibitors and fun area

Meet a host of early years suppliers and service providers that can support you and your childcare business. Pop by our fun area for a massage, photo op and history of childcare exhibition.

09.15- 10.00 | Registration, teas and coffees, networking

During registration, lunch and breaks, we encourage attendees to get together and support each other. For those who normally work alone or in small teams, this is a time to meet others going through the same as you!

This space will be used for teas and coffees throughout the day, as well as an area to sit at lunch time. Please note, lunch is not included in the ticket price. Please bring your own lunch or purchase from a number of cafes, supermarkets and shops nearby. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

18.15 - 19.00 | Drinks reception

A highlight of our last conference, this drinks reception is an opportunity to thank all our incredible attendees for the continuous hard work, passion and dedication and a chance to celebrate our wonderful awards winners.

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