

COBIS EYFS Conference – The Power of Early Learning Cultures Nord Anglia International School Hong Kong 15-16 February 2019

Workshop Summaries

Bilingual provision in Early Years

Vanessa Szucs-Hussain and Yuki Gong

With differing models of bilingual language promotion in education, choosing the right model to support the vision of your early years setting can be baffling. This workshop will allow participants to unpick the benefits of different models in relation to their specific context.

- What is bilingualism? Here's a clue, it's not EAL!
- What's out there?
- Promotion of the curriculum through bilingualism
- Reflections on our collective journeys – take aways for all

Bridging cultures

Vanessa Szucs-Hussain and Yuki Gong

How did a girl from Middlesbrough end up working with a girl from Shanghai and bring some plans to life in opening a bilingual nursery? This workshop will explore the challenges and the benefits of bringing cultures together under one roof to fulfil a shared vision in education. Sharing a journey of discovery, this workshop will support participants to consider ways of bridging cultures in the formation of one shared culture, embedding the specific values, identity and ethos of each unique early years setting.

Observing and Recording Children's Development in Early Years

Sue Darbyshire and Fay Blackburn

Observation is a central role in the EYFS planning and assessment process. EYFS practitioners know how vital observations are to capture children's interests, choices and development. We will identify best practices and resources to ensure observations provide essential information in a holistic manner.

- Effective use of the areas of learning and EYFS profile in observations;
- Assessing child-centred and child-led learning;
- Sharing information from observations;
- Embedding excellent observations in your practice.

Effective Outdoor Provision

Sue Darbyshire and Fay Blackburn

Effective outdoor provision supports problem-solving, increases confidence, and promotes co-operation. It also gives children the vital opportunity to take and manage risks, push themselves to the limit of their capabilities and explore the world around them. This programme will support EYFS practitioners in gaining a clearer understanding of how the characteristics of effective learning and how all areas of learning including the specific skills of literacy and maths can be effectively embedded and extended outdoors.

- Support children to take calculated risks
- How to risk assess your environment
- Imaginative and practical ideas for outdoor learning
- Making the most of the outdoor whatever the weather
- Overcoming barriers and challenges

Leading in EYFS

Karen Ardley

This workshop will explore some of the key skills and qualities demonstrated by inspirational leaders which have been identified by researchers. It is aimed at those already in leadership roles or practitioners aspiring to be leaders. We will look at how important leadership is to organisational culture. Delegates will leave the workshop with clear understanding about what the most effective leaders do and some practical ideas to try in their own setting.

Developing your EY team

Karen Ardley

Working effectively as a team is essential in EY settings. How can you ensure all members of your team are motivated, engaged and enthusiastic? In this workshop we will explore some proven, practical strategies to develop a high performing team. Team leaders will find this workshop useful to increase their knowledge and understanding about outstanding team culture. Delegates will work collaboratively with tried and tested tools to engage and motivate team members.

The project approach in Early Years

Fiona Carter

A practical guide to promoting children's Characteristics of Effective Learning through enquiry based project work with current examples from Wellington Colleges China. The session will explore how we can build on children's fascinations and take their learning further by drawing on their intrinsic motivations of developing their own projects in the classroom and outdoors. Planning, assessment and setting up the learning environment will all be considered.

Research in action

Fiona Carter

The session will look at ways to move away from just being informed by predominant education perspectives from the UK, to being creators of knowledge of what works in the context of our own schools. Drawing on the comprehensive research experience of the Institute of Learning, coupled with the partnership with Durham University, a range of high value research projects are being led within and beyond the group. These projects focus on leadership and pedagogy in international and bilingual contexts. As well as briefing delegates on the key elements of the action research approach, the session will discuss opportunities of how schools can be part of Early Years Hubs across SE Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Speaker Biographies

Fiona Carter

Fiona Carter is the Director of Academics (Early Years) for Wellington Colleges International and advises and monitors their Early Years provision on behalf of the Institute of Learning. Fiona's wide experience in primary and early years education has included strategic planning at ministry level, leadership and practitioner work.

Recently she has been involved in the successful set up and development of a wide range of EYFS settings internationally. Her vision of maximizing the conditions for learning through inspirational learning environments and informed teaching where there is an effective balance of adult and child-initiated learning drives her approach.

Fiona's current role is to develop world class bilingual education for the Wellington group and support the shaping of early years education in China as well as setting up research hubs across other groups of international schools; she is always looking for enthusiastic EY practitioners willing to be involved!

Karen Ardley

Karen Ardley is a highly successful leadership consultant, and facilitator, specialising in all aspects of leadership.

Drawing on her wide experience as a teacher and leader in all phases of education, Karen designs and delivers outstanding and inspirational leadership programmes focused on change and improvement.

Her previous projects have included working with the education ministries of England, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kenya through NCTL. She is currently designing a leadership and quality assurance programme for United Nations school.

Recent international work has involved teachers and leaders from over sixty countries and KAA work successfully in partnership with several Teaching Schools and Multi Academy Trusts in England, as well as individual schools.

Yuki Gong

Yuki has gathered a wealth of experience through twenty years' teaching practice, as well as a solid knowledge of Eastern and Western education philosophies. She uses her expertise to lead the teaching practice at Wellington College Bilingual Shanghai, aiming to provide personalised and holistic education for every pupil.

Yuki's experience in leadership has resulted in the ability to create a safe, fun and enabling learning environment where the awareness of responsibility and autonomy is stimulated among teachers and pupils.

She has a keen interest in developing communities with bilingual education and culture. She believes a successful bilingual curriculum ensures the Chinese and Western cultures are well integrated to create pupils in best environment for language acquisition. Then combining exploring and critical thinking can support pupils to grow up to become effective learners.

Vanessa Szucs-Hussain

After 15 years teaching paediatric growth and development at Durham School of Podiatric Medicine, Vanessa changed direction geographically and professionally with a move to the Middle East and a new career in early years education. Five years in the UAE culminated in leading a team of practitioners at a trilingual nursery in the heart of Abu Dhabi. A move further East to China brought new opportunities and exciting challenges, the starting point of which was as founding Master of Wellington College Bilingual Shanghai (Early Years).

Vanessa had the unique and privileged opportunity to bring a nursery to life and work across cultures to support the creation of an experience for Wellington families which honoured traditions whilst stretched and challenged pedagogical methods. Vanessa has a keen interest in developing communities with education and culture as the very hub; she considers her experience in China to be one that has not only developed herself professionally, but one which has profoundly affected her personally.

Fay Blackburn

Fay Blackburn is the Strategic Lead for Early Years at Platt Bridge Community School, the lead school in Community First Academy Trust. She trained to be a Childcare Practitioner before going to the University of Leeds to complete a degree in Childhood Studies and later a Masters in Early Years. In 2012, she completed the Graduate Teacher Programme at Kingsbridge in Wigan and since qualifying has taught across Year 1, Reception and Nursery. Fay has always had a keen passion for teaching in the Early Years and giving children the best start to their education.

Since 2015 Fay has delivered Early Years training for KAA and our Teaching School; Westbridge both locally and internationally. She has provided support, coaching, and bespoke training for trainee teachers and NQTs right through to experienced teacher and leaders. This has covered themes including; quality interactions, developing outstanding environments, outstanding practice in EYFS, outstanding progress and parental partnership, across countries including Germany, Prague and China.

Sue Darbyshire

Sue Darbyshire is CEO at Community First Academy Trust. Sue is also a National Leader of Education and supports school improvement nationwide. She started teaching in 1992 after completing a PGCE with Early Years as a specialism. Sue started teaching in Early Years and that is where her heart remains. She has taught in several Nursery and Reception classes since qualifying as a teacher.

Sue successfully amalgamated two failing schools into a new primary school and took the school to a good Ofsted judgement in 12 months and an Outstanding judgement in its next inspection. Sue also supported childcare provision within the school to an Outstanding judgement.

Sue is the founder of Westbridge Teaching School Alliance and CEO of Kingsbridge EIP SCITT; an outstanding provider of initial teacher training. Sue is totally committed to raising standards and to providing all pupils, staff and trainees with opportunities to excel