



# Early Years Training Days Spring 2016

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## Reading Readiness

**Maggie Johnson**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

"Over the next 5 years, children in this country will become the most proficient readers in Europe"  
Secretary of State, September 2015.

Children are introduced to phonics earlier in the UK than in any other European country, yet there is no evidence that this gives them an advantage when it comes to literacy. Indeed, early years practitioners report that many children are simply not ready to benefit from very early or developmentally inappropriate training in phonic skills and this can lead to children being switched off reading.

If the government's latest target is to be met, we need to ensure that children make the most of their early years to become truly ready for reading, and to introduce them to the synthetic phonic teaching approach in ways that are meaningful and enjoyable.

Attending this course will provide delegates with:

- An awareness of the natural developmental stages that lead to phonological awareness and reading readiness;
- An understanding of how current teaching methods often assume rather than support the development of reading readiness;
- Ideas to extend existing phonics schemes such as Letters and Sounds to ensure success.

**Maggie Johnson** is a speech and language therapist advisor specialising in childhood communication disorders and selective mutism. With over thirty years' experience in education and community settings, Maggie works closely with families and schools in Kent and provides training and workshops for schools, parents and health professionals across the UK and overseas. She was a key contributor to the Primary National Strategy for children with special educational needs (DfES 2005) and Communicating Phonics (The Communication Trust 2012) and has published many speech and language resource books.

Our training is aimed at all practitioners, including teachers & support staff, in Early Years settings

Cost: £135 per person per course (to book, please see separate booking form)

Training days run from 9.30am - 3.30pm - (Registration from 9.00am)

## 'British' Values, the Prevent Duty and Early Years

**Vicky Hutchin**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

'Actively promoting British Values' and implementing the Prevent Duty are requirements placed on all educational settings in England. What does this mean in practical terms for early childhood settings and early years in schools? What should we be doing?

The day will clarify expectations, help you work in ways that truly foster shared values with staff and parents and celebrate diversity. Participants will gain practical ideas for working with parents to enhance mutual respect and trust, and finding the best ways to discuss and develop young children's social and moral values.

The day will:

- Help participants to develop and demonstrate their own shared values, involving parents in the process ;
- Showcase strategies, including using stories, books and Persona Dolls, to help children develop tolerance, inclusiveness, and a greater understanding of the social world around them;
- Support participants to celebrate what they do well and decide what more might be needed.

**Vicky Hutchin** has worked for many years as an early years teacher and adviser both in local authorities and nationally in the National Strategies' Early Years team. She now works independently, supporting settings and schools as well as speaking at conferences and running courses around the country. She has written several books for early years practitioners particularly on early years and assessment. Her latest 4 books, published since 2012, are about various aspects of the EYFS. Most recently she has written articles with Babette Brown on equality, inclusion and the meaning of 'British' Values for early years.

## Inspiring Young Mathematicians through Play

**Elaine Bennett**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

This interactive day course provides a balance of theory, practice and lively discussion exploring how practitioners can ensure that the children in their care get the very best mathematical start to their learning journey. It's a day full of inspiring yet simple ideas and real stories straight from a busy, bustling EYFS setting. A course rich in practical ideas to inspire you to weave maths through the very heart of your setting and have fun whilst doing it without resorting to formal, developmentally inappropriate approaches! Come and be inspired by this course which will be full of practical, simple ideas and real stories from a busy setting.

Delegates will gain:

- Understanding of the essential principles and practice that support young mathematicians;
- Insight into the mathematical environment offered to children in their care and ways to enhance it further through the use of low cost/ no cost resources and their interactions;
- Understanding of the role of the adult in supporting developmentally appropriate mathematical learning through spontaneous play and everyday routines with a focus on the importance of maths talk.

**Elaine Bennett** is first and foremost an EYFS practitioner who also works as an independent early years consultant and writer. Her training courses include simple inspiring ideas and real stories straight from a busy, bustling EYFS setting, where children's and staff's wellbeing, involvement and total love of learning are at the centre of everything. She strives to promote a developmentally appropriate, play and exploration based approach to mathematics. Earlier this year Elaine founded the popular Keeping Early Years Unique (KEYU) social media group, which she describes as a movement committed to the very best early years education for all.