



DELEGATE PACK

Involving, Informing and Inspiring

Froebel Trust Online Conference

Saturday 25 April 2026 | 09:00 - 12:30 | Online (Zoom)

A free half-day online conference celebrating and exploring research and practice development projects funded by the Froebel Trust — for everyone with an interest in early childhood education and care.



Welcome

The Froebel Trust warmly welcomes you to our 2026 Online Conference: Involving, Informing and Inspiring. Today's programme brings together Froebelian researchers and educators to share findings and practices from projects funded by the Froebel Trust. We hope you find the sessions stimulating, thought-provoking and, above all, inspiring.

How to join today's event

Your Zoom joining link **was sent to you by email from Zoom**. Please check your inbox — and your **spam or junk folder** — for an email from Zoom containing your personal joining link.

We strongly encourage you to check that you have your link ready well before the event begins.

If you cannot find your joining link, please contact us and we will be happy to help:

office@froebeltrust.org.uk

Zoom tips for today

Feature	How to use it
Mute / unmute	Please keep your microphone muted unless invited to speak
Q&A	Use the Q&A feature at the bottom of your screen to submit questions during presentations
Chat	Use the Chat panel to share thoughts and connect with other attendees
Captions	Use the Show Captions feature at the bottom of your screen to watch the conference with automatically generated live captions
Technical issues	Email office@froebeltrust.org.uk and we will do our best to assist you



Programme

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome	<i>Sacha Powell</i>
Session 1 – Involving		
09:05 – 09:20	<u>Using wearable technology to explore freedom with guidance in outdoor nursery</u>	<i>Karen Vincent, Polly Bolshaw</i>
09:20 – 09:35	<u>Including children with special educational needs in woodwork</u>	<i>Janice Marriott (Pre-recorded)</i>
09:35 – 09:50	<u>The impact of involving grand-friends in children's lives</u>	<i>Sue Egersdorff, Kay Heslop, Charmaine Agius Ferrante, Liz Ludden</i>
09:50 – 10:05	Discussions and Questions	
10:05 – 10:20	Break	
Session 2 – Informing		
10:20 – 10:35	<u>Dialogising Froebelian philosophy in action: Early intercultural insights</u>	<i>Dr Lynn J McNair, Bridgette Redder, Dr Leah O'Toole, Professor E. Jayne White [in absentia]</i>
10:35 – 10:50	<u>Making connections: Froebel's principles and practices in Wales</u>	<i>Dr Sian Sarwar</i>
10:50 – 11:05	Discussions and Questions	<i>Chaired by Kate Hoskins</i>
11:05 – 11:20	Break	
Session 3 – Inspiring		
11:20 – 11:35	<u>Connecting everyday, principled resistances in early childhood education</u>	<i>Jo Albin-Clark</i>
11:35 – 11:50	<u>Block Play indoors and outdoors</u>	<i>Rebecca Goulding, Alex Powell</i>
11:50 – 12:05	Discussions and Questions	<i>Chaired by Nicola Kemp</i>
12:05 – 12:30	Plenary & Launch of Research Insights	<i>Sue Robson</i>
12:30	Close	



Speakers and Presenters

Full biographies are available on the [Froebel Trust website](#), on the Eventbrite event page, and in the event lobby.

Welcome

Sacha Powell | *CEO, Froebel Trust*

Sacha Powell brings extensive expertise in early childhood education and her work is closely aligned with Froebelian principles of respectful, research-informed practice.

Session 1 – Involving

Karen Vincent & Polly Bolshaw | *Senior Lecturer in Early Years, Canterbury Christ Church University*

Polly Bolshaw is a Senior Lecturer in Early Years whose research focuses on young children's experiences outdoors, including a Professional Doctorate exploring babies' perspectives of outdoor environments.

Janice Marriott | *Head of TuffKid Nursery, Kisharon Langdon*

Janice leads TuffKid, an orthodox Jewish nursery where a third of children have complex needs. With an MA in integrated early years provision, she has guided the nursery on its Froebelian journey for over a decade.

Sue Egersdorff, Kay Heslop, Charmaine Agius Ferrante & Liz Ludden | *Researchers & Practitioners, Ready Generations / Northumbria University*

This team brings together community activism, intergenerational research and early years practice. Their collaborative work explores the impact of involving older adults — 'grand-friends' — in the lives of young children within a Froebelian-inspired nursery setting.

Session 2 – Informing

Dr Lynn J McNair, Bridgette Redder, Dr Leah O'Toole & Professor E. Jayne White | *International Researchers, Universities of Edinburgh, Canterbury, Maynooth & Te Rito Maioha NZ*

This international team of scholars brings together Froebelian philosophy, dialogic pedagogy and early childhood policy from across Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand and Aotearoa to explore how Froebelian thought travels and transforms across cultural contexts.

Dr Sian Sarwar | *Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Studies, Cardiff Metropolitan University*

Sian's research centres on curriculum, pedagogy and children's participation rights. Her current Froebel Trust project explores connections between Froebel's principles and the new Curriculum for Wales.

Kate Hoskins | *Q&A Moderator, Reader in Public Policy, King's College London*



Kate chairs the Education and Research Committee of the Froebel Trust. Her research examines inequalities in the early years and the role of policy in shaping outcomes for young children and families.

Session 3 – Inspiring

Dr Jo Albin-Clark | *Lecturer and Researcher, Edge Hill University*

Jo's research draws on feminist materialisms and posthuman theories to explore documentation practices in early childhood education, with a focus on everyday acts of resistance and creative pedagogical possibility.

Rebecca Goulding & Alex Powell | *Senior Advisory Teachers, Cardiff Flying Start*

Becci and Alex support practitioners across Cardiff's Flying Start settings. Both have completed Froebel Elements training and are passionate advocates for Froebelian principles in everyday early years practice.

Dr Nicola Kemp | *Q&A Moderator, Director of Insight and Impact, Froebel Trust*

Nicola leads on research impact at the Froebel Trust. Her academic background is in environmental geography, with a particular focus on children's connection with nature and outdoor learning.

Plenary

Dr Sue Robson | *Independent Researcher and Writer, ECCE / Roehampton (Honorary Research Fellow)*

Sue has worked with and for young children for 45 years, including as a Deputy Headteacher and Principal Lecturer in Early Childhood Studies. A former Froebel Trust Trustee and National Teaching Fellow, her research specialises in young children's thinking, self-regulation, creative thinking and well-being.



Froebel Trust Resources

The Froebel Trust offers a wide range of free resources, training and funding opportunities to support practitioners, researchers and students working in early childhood education and care.

Learning & Training

Resource	Link
Webinar & Film Library	froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/webinars
Short Courses	froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/short-courses
Online Course	froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/online-course
Pamphlets & Guides	froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/pamphlets
Podcast	froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/podcast
Research & Project Library	froebel.org.uk/our-research/research-library

Grants & Funding

Resource	Link
Grants & Funding Overview	froebel.org.uk/grants-and-funding
Funding for CPD & Training	froebel.org.uk/grants-and-funding/funding-for-cpd-training



Stay Connected

Thank you for joining us today. Here are some ways to stay involved with the Froebel Trust community:

Join our networks

Network	Link
Alumni Network	froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/froebel-trust-alumni-network
Froebelian Networks	froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/support-for-educators
Mailing List	froebel.org.uk/newsletter-signup

Follow us on social media

Find The Froebel Trust on our different channels and always stay connected:

- Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/froebeltrust.bsky.social>
- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thefroebeltrust>
- Instagram: <https://instagram.com/froebeltrustuk/>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-froebel-trust>

Apply for funding

The Froebel Trust funds research and practice development projects in early childhood education. If today's presentations have sparked an idea, visit our grants pages to find out about grants and funding opportunities currently available:

froebel.org.uk/grants-and-funding

Get in touch

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