FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026 · Sessions · London (in person) · Global live transmission

London (GMT+0)	Vision Room	Nurture Room	Mosaic Room	Discovery Room
7:00 AM - 7:30 AM	ONLINE **The Impact of Integrating ESD in Fostering Sustainable Behavior Among Young Children: Perspectives of Teachers and Parents in Selected Nurseries in the UAE** **Zeinab Megahed**, United Arab Emirates	ONLINE **Teaching Science in Early Childhood Through Inquiry, STREAM, and Design-Based Thinking: Exploring Food Preservation Through Cultural Inclusion** **Laila N. Boisselle, Nashwa Ahmed Salem Zaiter Alameri, Aysha Khalil Abdulla Ali Alshebli, Aysha Salah Shaef Abdu Alharbi, Latifa Salem Haman Awad Al Ahbabi, Al Yazia Surour Obaid Mohammed Alshamsi**, United Arab Emirates		
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	ONLINE **From Protection to Participation: Social and Emotional Learning and Children's Digital Rights** **Garene Kaloustian**, Lebanon · **Joe Khalil**, Qatar	ONLINE **Global Online Poster Gallery · Session 16** **Systems, Families and Futures: Reimagining Early Childhood Across the Region** Chair: **Shabnam Abdoola**, United Arab Emirates **Rouxjeanne Vermeulen**, United Arab Emirates · **Fathiya Aish**, Bahrain · **Nasiba Hamroyeva**, Uzbekistan		
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM		ONLINE **Global Online Poster Gallery · Session 17** **Play, Agency and Creativity: From STEAM and AI to Early Literacy** Chair: **Maisa Almatrafi**, Saudi Arabia **Aikaterini Akritidou**, Greece · **Mona Jomaa**, United Arab Emirates	ONLINE **Working Towards a UAE Early Childhood Curriculum Framework** **Youqian Chen**, United Arab Emirates	
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Break			
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	ONLINE **Building Inclusive Families: Raising Inclusive Children** **Sarah Mead Jasperse, Mariam Al Marzooqi**, United Arab Emirates	ONLINE **Babilou/Blossom Pedagogy in Action: From Vision to Everyday Practice** **Maha Eid**, United Arab Emirates		
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	**When Childhood Glows: How Changing Environments Are Shaping Young Brains** **Sam Wass**, United Kingdom			
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	**AI Is Advising Parents. What Is It Telling Them? Launching ParentBench: The World's First Open Benchmark of AI-Generated Parenting Advice** Chair: **Will Quince**, United Kingdom Expert panellists: **Rob Hughes**, United Kingdom · **Alastair van Heerden**, South Africa · **Jun Zhao, Emily Goodacre**, United Kingdom		**What Difference Does Light Make? Exploring Attention, Contingency, Stimulation and Participation in Early Childhood** **Adam Marycz**, United Kingdom	
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM			**Starcatchers Voice of the Baby: Transforming Early Years Practice** **Amy Hall Gibson, Rhona Matheson**, United Kingdom	**Beyond the Classroom: Inclusive Outdoor and STEAM Pathways for Autistic and Neurodivergent Learners** **Janet Packer**, United Kingdom
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM				**From Chaos to Connection: Using Music to Restore and Revive Early Learning Settings** **Melissa Smile, Adam Isaacs**, Australia
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	**OECD High-Level Roundtable: Partnerships for Inclusive Development. Strengthening Global Collaboration for the Future of Early Childhood & Primary Education** Chair: **James Searjeant**, United Kingdom Co-Chair: **Sean Slade**, United States OECD Lead Discussant: **Esme Stout** Roundtable contributors: **H.E Humaid AlHouti**, United Arab Emirates · **David Goodger, Rob Hughes**, United Kingdom · **Axel Mallmann**, United Arab Emirates		**Listen to Me: Building a Global Story Circle Through Children's Voices, Storytelling and Creative Exchange** **Gorana Henry**, United Kingdom · **Elinah Matenda, Noria Muchembere, Astina Dani**, Zimbabwe	**Creative Learning: beyond enrichment to curriculum core** **Paul Hougham**, United Kingdom
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM			**From Curriculum Delivery to Learning Design: How Hybrid AI Can Coach Playoneering in the Early Years** **Hayley Peacock, Jen Poulton**, United Kingdom	
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM		Networking lunch and poster viewing (London)		
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM		**Developing a Decolonising and Liberating Curriculum Audit Framework: Advancing Equity, Inclusion and Global Perspectives in Early Years and Primary Education** **Gideon Sappor, Eirini Gkouskou**, United Kingdom	**Mentorship in Motion: Cultivating Reflective, Sustainable Practice in Early Years Classrooms** **Kerry Drake, MEd, RECE**, Canada	
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	**BE BRAVE IN EDUCATION: A High-Level Global Think Tank on the Future of Education** Convenor: **James Searjeant**, United Kingdom		**Once Upon an Algorithm: AI-Generated Stories as Tools for Emotional Regulation in Early Childhood** **Annemieke Lais**, Germany	**Child-Led Play in the Age of Autoplay Protecting Curiosity, Agency & Imagination in a Digital World** **Sue Atkins**, United Kingdom
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM		**Responding in parallel to dual education priorities of humanitarian response and system building: The advancement of Early Childhood Education and Care in Ukraine** **Louise Ruskin**, United Kingdom · **Maryna Stoliar**, Ukraine		**The Outdoors as an Inspiring Learning Environment for Early Years** **Sirpa Turves-Mankila**, Finland
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM		**From Compliance and Control to Collaboration and Connection in a Digital World** **Samantha Dholakia**, United Kingdom	**The Relationship Between Motor Development and Self-Efficacy in Early EAL Contexts: Integrating Practice and Theory from a Neurofunctional Perspective** **Maho Kabasawa**, Japan · **Elke Landrock**, Germany	**Enhancing Early Childhood Learning Environments: Integrating PERS and CERS with ECERS-3 within a Vygotskian Framework** **Nahla Gahwaji**, Saudi Arabia
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Coffee and poster viewing (London)			
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	**From Play to Peace: Building Preventive Mental Health Infrastructure Through Collective Care in Action®** **Nakeya Fields**, United States	**Rethinking Taboos: Educator Attitudes on Death Education - A Canadian Perspective** **Delaney Carriere**, Canada	**Clarifying the Concept of Early Childhood to Unify the Standards, Competencies, and Practices that Shape the Profession Worldwide** **Isabel Lainez**, United States	**Rethinking Practice: Educator Self-Awareness as an Innovation in Early Learning** **Dhruti Dholakia**, United States
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	**Preferences for Protagonists: Analyzing the Role of Gender in the Reading Choices of Kindergarteners** **Rebecca Giles, Paige Vitulli**, United States	**Beyond Access: Why Cultural Responsiveness Must Be the Next Global Commitment in Nature-Based Early Childhood Education** **Deja Jones**, United States	**Picturing Priorities: A Child-Led Inquiry in Türkiye's Container Camps** **Lucy Bassett**, United States	**Play, Empathy and Possibility: Theatre Tools for Creative Classrooms** **Laura James**, France

INTERACTIVE LEARNING ARENA · Open 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM London · runs alongside all sessions

Meet & Learn
Khalifa International Award for Early Learning 2027: Meet the Team

Hands-On Station - Presented by TTS
Developing Computational thinking skills in the early years
Gemma Koch

Discovery Station - Playoneering World
Where Children's Curiosity, Environments and Educators Grow Together
Jen Poulton, Hayley Peacock

Presenter Resource Hub
Resources from Our Presenters. Discover practical resources, tools, guides and materials shared directly by Bright Start 2026 presenters

Programme correct as at 4 November 2026. Times may change; please check the Whova app for the latest version.

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London (GMT+0)	Screen	Poster title & presenter(s)
1:15 PM - 1:25 PM	L1	**A journey towards capturing the voices and lived experiences of our youngest children with SEND: A hermeneutic phenomenological study.** **Hannah McCormack**, United Kingdom
1:15 PM - 1:25 PM	L2	**From Vision to System Reform: Reimagining Early Childhood Education in Public Sector Education, Punjab Pakistan** **Sana Zulqarnain, Khurram Shahzad**, Pakistan
1:15 PM - 1:25 PM	L3	**When the Policy No Longer Fits** **Lisa Low**, United Kingdom
1:25 PM - 1:35 PM	L1	**Seeing Through Their Lenses: Perspectives of Kindergarten Teachers on Implementing Purposeful Play for Children's Academic and Developmental Learning** **Subarna Basu**, United States
1:25 PM - 1:35 PM	L2	**Documenting Children's Free Play in Singapore: An Approach to Understanding Cross-Cultural Expressions of Agency** **Hui Wen Chin**, Singapore
1:25 PM - 1:35 PM	L3	**Parental Perceptions of Outdoor Play Engagement in Toddlers in an Urban City of India** **Rujuta Bhave**, United States
1:35 PM - 1:45 PM	L1	**Piecing Together Perspectives: Friendship, Conflict and Collaboration in a Grade Two Classroom** **Madonna Chidwick**, United Kingdom
1:35 PM - 1:45 PM	L3	**Hands-On Minds in an AI-Led World** **Iris Sofikiti**, Greece
1:45 PM - 1:55 PM	L1	**Voice it up! Participation, Inclusion and well-being in early childhood education: from the perspectives of professionals to the voices of children** **Susana Martins Sousa**, Portugal
1:45 PM - 1:55 PM	L2	**Play Material Development: Engaging parents and communities for their children** **Shariful Alam**, Bangladesh
1:45 PM - 1:55 PM	L3	**Nothing Becomes Alone: The Conditions Lens™ and the Modern Ecology of Children's Voice, Agency and Becoming** **Thomas Mountney**, Ireland
4:05 PM - 4:15 PM	L1	**Walking With Children: Making Young Children's Thinking and Voices Visible Through Pedagogical Documentation in Nature** **Allison Trapp**, United States
4:05 PM - 4:15 PM	L2	**Exploring Educational Equity in Early Childhood Education: Emerging Insights from Rural and Urban Saudi Kindergarten Teachers** **Anjad Bensalloom**, United Kingdom
4:05 PM - 4:15 PM	L3	**Creative Learning: beyond enrichment to curriculum core** **Paul Hougham**, United Kingdom