

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2026 - Sessions · London & Abu Dhabi (in person) + Online					
Abu Dhabi (GMT+4)	London (GMT+0)	Vision Room	Nurture Room	Mosaic Room	Discovery Room
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	6:00 AM – 6:30 AM	Welcome tea / coffee (Abu Dhabi)			
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM	6:30 AM – 7:15 AM	Toward Systemic AI Integration in Teacher Education: From Fragmented Integration to Framework Guided Transformation <i>Laila N. Boisselle, Tarek Hamada, Robert Miles, Nadya Moosa</i> , United Arab Emirates	Working Towards a UAE Early Childhood Curriculum Framework <i>Youqian Chen</i> , United Arab Emirates		
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	7:15 AM – 8:00 AM	From Microteaching to Authentic Practice: Preparing Pre-Service Early Childhood Teachers for Inquiry-Based Integrated Math and Science Teaching <i>Marwa Eltanahy, Mina Radhwan</i> , United Arab Emirates	Play, Empathy and Possibility: Theatre Tools for Creative Classrooms <i>Laura James</i> , France		
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Networking lunch and poster viewing (Abu Dhabi)			
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Talking Together, Learning Together: The DEEP Approach <i>Ana Olguin</i> , United Arab Emirates	Shaping Inclusive Futures: Supporting Invisible Disabilities through Proactive Design in Early Childhood Education <i>Alaa Gharib</i> , United Arab Emirates	Follow their Curiosity: Turning Play into Powerful Inquiry in Early Childhood <i>Erin Fitzgerald</i> , United Arab Emirates	
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM	9:30 AM – 9:45 AM		The Impact of Integrating ESD in Fostering Sustainable Behavior Among Young Children: Perspectives of Teachers and Parents in Selected Nurseries in the UAE <i>Zeinab Megahed</i> , United Arab Emirates		
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	9:45 AM – 10:00 AM				
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Aligning Discovery, Curiosity and Playful Learning with Brain development in young children <i>Kathryn Murray</i> , Australia	Validating Competency-Based Assessment and Pedagogy Across an ECE Bachelor's Programme: Evidence of Soft-Skill Mastery and Professional Competence <i>Sahbi Hidri, Slim Khemakhem, Aziz Almahadin</i> , United Arab Emirates	Seeing the Thinking in Play: Teacher Knowledge, Schema Play, and Child Agency in Early Childhood Classrooms <i>Travis Morgan</i> , United States	Making with Families in the Museum, Connecting to Collections <i>Ania Bas</i> , United Kingdom
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	10:30 AM – 10:45 AM		From Protection to Participation: Social and Emotional Learning and Children's Digital Rights <i>Garene Kaloustian</i> , Lebanon <i>Prof. Joe Khalil</i> , Qatar	Babilou/Blossom Pedagogy in Action: From Vision to Everyday Practice <i>Maha Eid</i> , United Arab Emirates	Computational Thinking at Play: growing critical thinking and problem solving skills <i>Mandy Andrews</i> , United Kingdom <i>Prof. Lea Ann Christenson</i> , United States
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Honouring Excellence in Early Learning: The Khalifa International Award and the Global Stories It Champions <i>Susan Place Everhart, Prof. Gillian West</i> , United Kingdom			
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	11:00 AM – 11:30 AM		Every Child Has a Voice - But Are We Listening? <i>Michelle Reid, Jenny Hemming</i> , United Kingdom	Using Purposeful Play Communities of Practice as a Training Modality for Families and Teachers <i>Prof. Crystal Loose, Subarna Basu</i> , United States	OECD Global Action Dialogues – From Dialogue to Action: Future of Early Childhood Education Leadership Forum <i>Chair</i> <i>James Searjeant</i> , United Kingdom <i>Co-chair</i> <i>Sean Slade</i> , United States <i>OECD lead discussant</i> <i>Priscilla Boiardi</i> , France <i>Dialogue contributors</i> <i>H.E Humaid AlHouti</i> , United Arab Emirates <i>Ayse Cobanoglu</i> , Türkiye <i>Prof. Kay Gallagher</i> , United Arab Emirates <i>Mary Gordon</i> , Canada <i>Liz Gregory</i> , United Kingdom <i>Axel Mallmann</i> , United Arab Emirates <i>Nasiba Hamroyeva</i> , Uzbekistan <i>Sana Zulqarnain, Khurram Shahzad</i> , Pakistan <i>Jannine Perryman</i> , United Kingdom <i>Rita Mbeba</i> , Tanzania <i>Fathiya Aish</i> , Bahrain <i>Lisa Catherine Low, Nikky Gibson</i> , United Kingdom <i>Claudio Vanhees, Tim Surma</i> , Belgium <i>Priyanka Devani, Katie Cohen</i> , United Kingdom <i>Shuchi Sharma</i> , India
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM				
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Voices of Children Pedagogy™ Summit	Carnival as Children's Native Play Culture: Rights, Recognition and the Limits of Outcome-Driven Pedagogy <i>Vince MacLeod</i> , United Kingdom	Being visionary for vulnerable children in education <i>Rebecca Tarplett, Louise Lawton</i> , United Kingdom	
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	12:30 PM – 1:00 PM		Early Literacy in Context: Bridging Home and Kindergarten Experiences in Early Childhood <i>Isidora Castillo Rabanal</i> , United Kingdom	Building Inclusive Families: Raising Inclusive Children <i>Sarah Mead Jasperse, Mariam Al Marzooqi</i> , United Arab Emirates	
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Networking lunch and poster viewing (London)			
6:00 PM – 6:30 PM	2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Voices of Children Pedagogy™ Summit <i>(continued)</i>	The Regulated Educator: How Teacher Self-Care Dictates Classroom Co-Regulation <i>Rashieta LaLand-Johnson</i> , United States	One Question, Endless Learning: The Power of Child-Led Inquiry <i>Shareen Ratnani</i> , Indonesia	
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM	2:30 PM – 3:00 PM			How intentionally designed ‘attuned spaces’ act as a pedagogical partner in young children’s self-regulation, agency and participation <i>Kyle Moore, Prof. Hazel Marian</i> , United Kingdom	
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	3:00 PM – 3:30 PM		Building Strong Beginnings: Multidisciplinary Global Support for Autistic Children Entering School <i>Helen Viana</i> , United Kingdom	Listening to Children's Voices Through Drawings: Young Children’s Experiences of School <i>Josephine Deguara</i> , Malta	Language, Play, and Possibility: Honoring Children's Home Language as a Global Foundation for Early Literacy <i>Lisa Wilson</i> , United States
7:30 PM – 8:00 PM	3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Coffee and poster viewing (London)			
8:00 PM – 8:45 PM	4:00 PM – 4:45 PM		Stories in Motion: Supporting Child-Led Play, Identity, and Agency Through Embodied Storytelling <i>Kristen Magni</i> , United States	When Parents Feel Attacked: Repair Scripts That Strengthen Home–School Trust <i>Yao Tyus</i> , United States	From Laughter to Recognition: Letting Young Children's Voices Shape Socio-Emotional Storytelling <i>Christiane Hensel-Gatos, Prof. Brigitte Stangl</i> , United Kingdom
INTERACTIVE LEARNING ARENA · Open 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM London (3:00 PM – 8:00 PM Abu Dhabi) · runs alongside all sessions					
Open 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM London	Khalifa International Award Meet & Learn · Khalifa International Award for Early Learning 2027: Meet the Team		Playoneering: Discovery Station Playoneering World: Where Children's Curiosity, Environments and Educators Grow Together <i>Jen Poulton, Hayley Peacock</i> , United Kingdom		Presenter Resource Hub Resources, tools, guides and materials shared directly by Bright Start 2026 presenters

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2026 - Global Poster Gallery · London & Abu Dhabi				
Abu Dhabi (GMT+4)	London (GMT+0)	Venue	Screen	Poster title & presenter(s)
12:10 PM – 12:20 PM	8:10 AM – 8:20 AM	Abu Dhabi	A1	Beyond the Book: A Read–Experience–Create–Connect–Share Model for Experiential Learning in Early Childhood Education LaToya Lewis , United Arab Emirates
12:10 PM – 12:20 PM	8:10 AM – 8:20 AM	Abu Dhabi	A3	Play, Voice, and Participation: Supporting Children with Emerging Attention and Self-Regulation Needs in UAE Kindergarten Classrooms Anika Deas , United Arab Emirates
12:20 PM – 12:30 PM	8:20 AM – 8:30 AM	Abu Dhabi	A1	Developing Sustainable Thinkers: Child-Led Sensor-Based Mini Greenhouses Using Repurposed Materials in Early Childhood Education Shahad Al Balushi , Asma Ahmed Hussain Alshateri Alhashmi , Hamda Almabsali , Maha Mohamed Ahmed Salem Alali , United Arab Emirates
12:20 PM – 12:30 PM	8:20 AM – 8:30 AM	Abu Dhabi	A2	AI-Driven Storytelling for Early Language Development: Enhancing Engagement and Literacy in Young Children Noof Almenhali , Meena Alblooshi , Salama Salem , United Arab Emirates
12:20 PM – 12:30 PM	8:20 AM – 8:30 AM	Abu Dhabi	A3	Preparing Innovative Early Childhood Educators in the Age of Artificial Intelligence Maryam Alshamsi , United Arab Emirates
12:30 PM – 12:40 PM	8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Abu Dhabi	A1	Integrating Sustainability into Daily Classroom Practices in Early Childhood Education Atheer Awadh Balbaheeth , Shamma Ahmed Alnuaimi , Maha Khaled Mohammed Al Haidhani , United Arab Emirates
12:30 PM – 12:40 PM	8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Abu Dhabi	A2	Preservice teachers' preparedness for inclusive early childhood education: a mixed-methods study at a higher education institution in the United Arab Emirates Tania Al Aghar , Alya Almarzooqi , United Arab Emirates
12:30 PM – 12:40 PM	8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Abu Dhabi	A3	Fostering sustainable thinking in early childhood through child-led use of repurposed materials. Meera Alkaabi , Mariam Alshamsi , Mouza Alrashdi , Aysha Alyahyae , United Arab Emirates <i>Faculty mentors</i> Ana Olguin , Halima Hamed , United Arab Emirates
12:40 PM – 12:50 PM	8:40 AM – 8:50 AM	Abu Dhabi	A1	Reclaiming language and identity: Intergenerational Approaches to Arabic language acquisition in early childhood Helen Toohey , United Arab Emirates
12:40 PM – 12:50 PM	8:40 AM – 8:50 AM	Abu Dhabi	A2	Industry Engaged Curriculum Design for Sustainability in Early Childhood Teacher Education Sameirah Abdouli , United Arab Emirates
12:40 PM – 12:50 PM	8:40 AM – 8:50 AM	Abu Dhabi	A3	Interactive branching storytelling: technology that enriches and supports KG understanding of story structure Sara Alkaabi , Shahad Alkaabi , Aisha Alseari , Shamma Alshamsi , Shamsa AlMheiri , United Arab Emirates <i>Faculty mentors</i> Ana Olguin , Halima Hamed , United Arab Emirates
5:15 PM – 5:25 PM	1:15 PM – 1:25 PM	London	L1	Family Centres as "Natural Sources of Help": The Example of Mala Ulica Family Centre Eva Strmljan Kreslin , Slovenia
5:15 PM – 5:25 PM	1:15 PM – 1:25 PM	London	L2	Forms of Challenging Behaviours in Preschool Children and Preschool Teachers' Support Strategies: Analysis of Assessment, Intensity and Frequency Prof. Jasna Kudek Mirošević , Edita Rogulj , Croatia
5:15 PM – 5:25 PM	1:15 PM – 1:25 PM	London	L3	Every Child Has a Story: Can Agency and Imagination Change the Early Literacy Journey? Kate Shelley , United Kingdom
5:25 PM – 5:35 PM	1:25 PM – 1:35 PM	London	L1	Toward a New Human Rights Treaty on Early Childhood Education Bede Sheppard , Spain
5:25 PM – 5:35 PM	1:25 PM – 1:35 PM	London	L2	Inclusive Education Without Borders: A Digital Model for Safe, Qualified and Accessible Learning Laura Harrison , United Kingdom
5:25 PM – 5:35 PM	1:25 PM – 1:35 PM	London	L3	Making Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Part of Early Years Education Priyanka Devani , Katie Cohen , United Kingdom
5:35 PM – 5:45 PM	1:35 PM – 1:45 PM	London	L1	Mothers, Communities and Anganwadis: Community-Centred Early Learning at Scale in India Shuchi Sharma , India
5:35 PM – 5:45 PM	1:35 PM – 1:45 PM	London	L2	You AIReady Are™: An Inside-Out Approach to Childhood Wellbeing Manal El-Ramly , United States
5:35 PM – 5:45 PM	1:35 PM – 1:45 PM	London	L3	A LOVE of Learning in all schools Nikki Nightingale , Cyprus
5:45 PM – 5:55 PM	1:45 PM – 1:55 PM	London	L1	How Do Parents Matter Most? Eve Sullivan , United States
5:45 PM – 5:55 PM	1:45 PM – 1:55 PM	London	L2	Responsive Caregiving Knowledge and Practices among Young Parents in Arusha, Tanzania Rita Mbeba , Tanzania
5:45 PM – 5:55 PM	1:45 PM – 1:55 PM	London	L3	Is Our School Breathing? A Child-Led STEAM Inquiry into Air Quality and Environmental Awareness Esvet Özer Bilgin , Türkiye
7:35 PM – 7:45 PM	3:35 PM – 3:45 PM	London	L1	Effectiveness of an Integrated Early Childhood Development Parenting Programme on Parenting Practices in Rural Bangladesh: A Cluster-Randomised Controlled Trial Syeda Fardina Mehrin , Bangladesh
7:35 PM – 7:45 PM	3:35 PM – 3:45 PM	London	L2	“Reaching the unreached” during disaster: An illustration of providing early childhood education during pandemic in India Monica Jairam , India
7:35 PM – 7:45 PM	3:35 PM – 3:45 PM	London	L3	Autistic Masking: The Child’s Voice Jodie Clarke , United Kingdom
7:45 PM – 7:55 PM	3:45 PM – 3:55 PM	London	L1	Home Learning Environment and Early Academic Competencies in Rural Bangladesh: Follow-Up Findings from the EN-REACH (cRCT) Cohort Ismat Ara Mili , Bangladesh
7:45 PM – 7:55 PM	3:45 PM – 3:55 PM	London	L2	‘Exploration of Children & Young People’s Experiences of Autistic Burnout’ Jodie Clarke , United Kingdom
7:45 PM – 7:55 PM	3:45 PM – 3:55 PM	London	L3	The 'Relational Nexus': Designing Inclusive Participatory Research to access the 'hundred languages' of Babies, Toddlers and Young Children with Disabilities Deirdre Forde , Prof. Leah O'Toole , Ireland
7:55 PM – 8:00 PM	3:55 PM – 4:00 PM	London	L3	‘Lost in translation?’ The benefits and challenges of Participant Action Research for accessing the voices of young children; a relational conceptualisation Deirdre Forde , Prof. Leah O'Toole , Ireland