

Symposium Set B1, KLA Lab (Classroom Space 2 -x2 presentations by practitioners followed by a Q&A).

LEARNING FROM PRACTITIONER REFLECTIONS

Learning Together: Teachers' Experiences of Supporting Children's Participation

Abstract: This session brings together teachers who have participated in the project to reflect on their professional journey, involvement, and experiences of embedding participation in practice. Teachers will share their perspectives on how their understanding of participation has developed over time and whether they have adopted new approaches to planning for children's participation. The session will explore how classroom environments have been intentionally designed or adapted to support children's voices, agency, and involvement in decision-making. Teachers will also discuss small, yet significant changes made to everyday routines, interactions, and practices that have contributed to a culture of participation. Through reflective dialogue, the presentation will highlight practical insights, challenges, and moments of learning encountered throughout the project. Finally, participating teachers will offer advice and considerations for other educators seeking to strengthen participatory practice.

Key words

- Practitioner reflections
- Participatory pedagogy
- Children's participation in school



CHAired BY: Dr Jacky Tyrie, Swansea University.

Jacky is a senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Studies and programme director on the MA Childhood Studies. Her research interests are around young children's rights from a policy and practice perspective. She is a national leader on young children's rights and runs in the Children's Rights in Early Years Network (CREYN).

Facilitators



Anne-Marie Jones, Ysgol Yr Hafod

Anne-Marie is a primary school teacher in Ysgol yr Hafod, Johnstown in Wrexham. Her My passion in teaching is creating enabling environments for learners to be able to have a voice in how their curriculum is created, follow their interests, with the teacher collaboratively learning alongside the children. She has been teaching for 15 years.



Rachel Birch, Cadoxton Primary School

Rachel is a primary school teacher, with ten years' experience at Cadoxton Primary School teaching from Year 3 to Nursery. Her passion is early years education and has led a nursery of 80 children and their families for the past four years, creating nurturing, engaging environments for young learners. She is committed to professional learning, with experience in Reggio Emilia, Italy and collaboration with nursery settings across Wales and England, shaping her child-centred approach to education.