



EARLY YEARS

EXCELLENCE 2017

Awards special



38
FANTASTIC
RESOURCES FOR
YOUR SETTING





THE AWARD WINNING EARLY YEARS NUMERACY SCHEME



0 to 10

Designed to develop strong basic numeracy skills
and reduce number reversal



Stories • Songs • Games • Activities • Ten Town TV

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10 to 20

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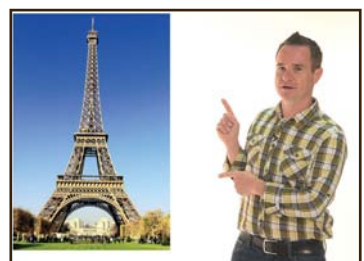


Emphasis on number value and placement. Also introduces...

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3D shapes • Estimating • Half and double • Coding and more!



Watch "Where's Freddie Four?"
with Alex Winters
Weekly episodes free on YouTube
See www.tentown.co.uk for details



Contents



Hello...

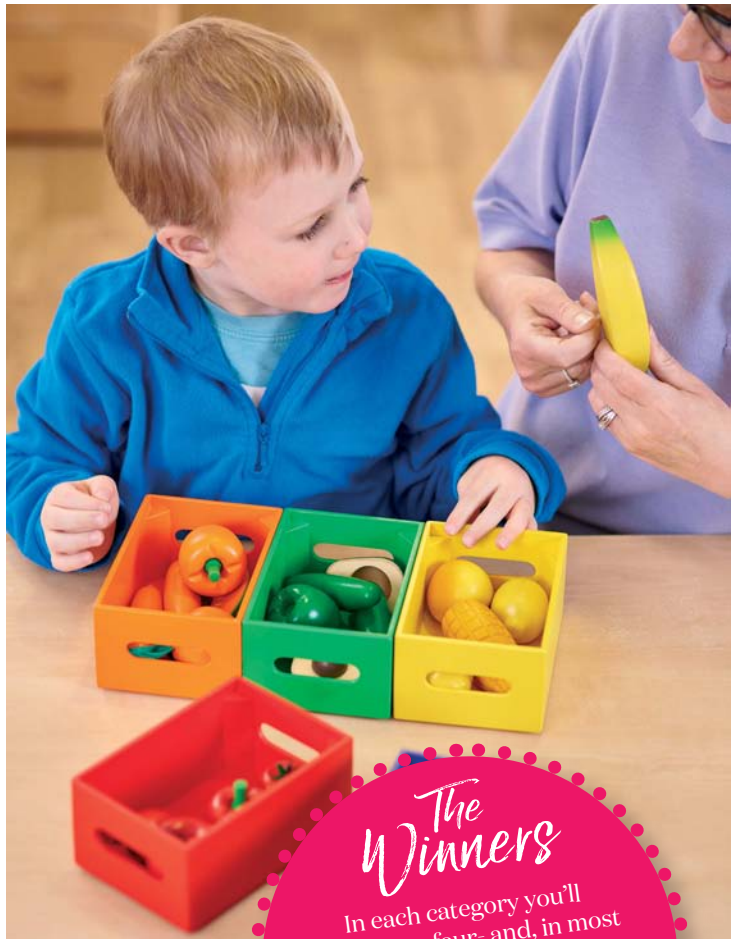
Anyone who spends their time with young children – be they a parent or practitioner – will be familiar with the growing brain's capacity to conjure learning from the simplest objects. The power of the cardboard box to entertain and educate (while its contents sit forgotten) is legendary, but the same goes for almost anything you'd care to name – children will find the sensory stimulation in a tea strainer or a bunch of keys, sort the natural objects they find in the garden (as a case in point, see my house, which is currently filling up with stones of varying sizes) and happily role play with a tatty piece of ribbon retrieved from a drawer. They might not look much, but these items' educational value shouldn't be sniffed at.

But these humble objects can't do it all – and where they are lacking in the power to educate or engage, there are purpose-made alternatives aplenty to take the learning and fun to the next level.

Early Years Excellence is our way of throwing the spotlight on some of the best of these resources – a free-to-enter industry awards scheme covering products and publications, including a selection designed to support practitioners' professional development. This is the first time we've put the call out to the sector, but the response has been fantastic and we have some very worthy winners to share with you here, all assessed by our expert judging panel.

Some of the resources you'll find on the following pages are straightforward, others more complex, but all offer children and/or their educators something different. We hope you enjoy seeing who has emerged triumphant this year – and that you'll find something your setting could use...

Jacob Stow - Editor



The Winners

In each category you'll find a five-, four- and, in most cases, three-star winner. Our finalists were judged on their educational value, their cost and their capacity to withstand the rigours of use in a busy early years setting!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EARLY YEARS EXCELLENCE AND VIEW PHOTOS OF THE WINNERS AT TEACHWIRE.NET/EYEXCELLENCE

35 THE JUDGES

Meet the nine members of our expert panel...

36 COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE RESOURCE

Promoting the development of talk and language skills, early writing and reading skills.

37 SEN RESOURCE

Open to all resources designed to support the care and development of children with special educational needs.

38 MATHS RESOURCE

Promoting the development of mathematical skills.

39 ROLE PLAY RESOURCE

From home corner resources, playhouses and playmats, to dressing-up accessories and dolls.

41 MUSIC RESOURCE

From musical instruments to recorded media and accompanying learning materials.

42 CREATIVE RESOURCE

From art and craft equipment and messy play materials, to construction toys.

44 UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD RESOURCE

Promoting children's understanding of those around them, the communities in which they live and the wider world.

45 PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE

Promoting children's fine or gross motor development, and/or good health.

47 OUTDOOR RESOURCE

Adult-portable resources designed for use in outdoor learning environments.

48 CPD RESOURCE

Physical and digital resources to support the development of good practice – from books and ebooks, to toolkits and online training courses.

50 PICTURE BOOKS

Open to all illustrated story books aimed at children aged 0–5.

51 TOY OR GAME

From non-construction toys for indoors and out, to games, jigsaws and other puzzles.

52 UNDER-TWOS RESOURCE

Open to all resources designed to support the development of babies and toddlers.



Singing Hands

MULTI-SENSORY MAKATON

Singing Hands produce a wide range of resources to help make song time a multi-sensory singing experience. All available to purchase via our online shop.

- ★ Award-winning DVDs featuring MAKATON signs and symbols
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For more information about our resources or to enquire about a visit, please contact us.

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"Something Special" and "Tikkabilla"

STAGE systems



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The Judges

The finalists in this year's Early Years Excellence Awards were assessed by our panel of experts – here's a bit more about them all...



STEVE ANTONY

Steve Antony is the author-illustrator of *The Queen's Hat* and *Please Mr Panda* series. His picture-book adaptation of Tim Minchin's 'When I Grow Up', from *Matilda the Musical*, will publish this September, followed by his next author-illustrator title, *Unplugged*, in October. Steve is a long-term supporter of the National Literacy Trust.



SUE COWLEY

Sue Cowley is an experienced teacher, writer and presenter, specialising in behaviour management – about which she writes regularly for *TEY* – and creative teaching and learning. She helps to run her local 'outstanding' preschool, as chair of the management committee. Her latest books include *The Seven V's of a Great Early Years Setting*.



LISA SNELL

Director of early years at Busy Bees nursery group, Lisa Snell has been influential in shaping quality childcare and education standards across the UK's largest nursery provider. Having begun her career as a nursery assistant, today she leads a committed team of childcare practitioners, who ensure Busy Bees is at the forefront of quality provision.



SARAH STEEL

Sarah Steel is the MD of the Old Station Nursery, which operates seven nurseries across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Gloucestershire. She has a background in management within Army and civilian industry, and has been recognised for her work representing nursery owners, both with NDNA and as a member of various government forums.



SAM DIXON

Sam Dixon is a teacher, composer and musical educator. Having taught across primary for 18 years she is often asked to supply songs for class teachers who want to liven up assemblies, leading her to publish her *Top Topics* songbook, while her diverse performance experience has provided inspiration for projects such as *Amazing Masks* – visit songchest.co.uk



KIRSTINE BEELEY

Known for her innovative (and sometimes messy) ideas for learning activities, Kirstine Beeley is a trainer, educational consultant and regular contributor to *TEY*. She is the author of a number of books, most recently *This is how we do it!*, *Planning for Play* and *Maths makes the world go around!* – all available at playingtolearnuk.com



KATHY BRODIE

Kathy Brodie is an Early Years Professional and trainer based in East Cheshire. She's the author of multiple books on early years childcare, a regular contributor to *TEY*, and the organiser of the Early Years Summit (earlyyearssummit.com) – the leading free online CPD resource for early years practitioners.



KIDDI CARU

Kiddi Caru operates 20 nursery settings across the Midlands, South, South East and South West of England, and was recently named in the prestigious Centrica Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer list. We'd like to thank marketing manager, Caron Moseley, and the team at Kiddi Caru Colchester for their help with judging and photography.



JUNE O'SULLIVAN MBE

June O'Sullivan is CEO of the award-winning London Early Years Foundation. A qualified psychiatric nurse and social worker, June is a regular columnist for *TEY* and the author of *Successful Leadership in the Early Years* and *Leadership Skills in the Early Years*. She was awarded her MBE in 2013 for services to London's children.

WINNERS

Communication & Language Resource



MANTRA LINGUA -

LinguaTALK Interactive Nursery Pack

The LinguaTALK Interactive Nursery Pack (£135 ex. VAT) employs the innovative PENpal to bring audio and interactive activities to a selection of printed books and charts. Practitioners can access sound files in over 30 languages for a range of 'Talking Books', free of charge; children can then explore resources in the pack with PENpal to hear audio, including

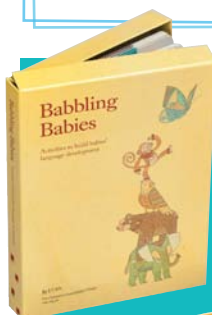
songs, sounds, narrations of the stories, information and instructions. They can also record themselves into the resources and hear their own voices played back instantly – ideal for developing speaking skills, sound discrimination skills and practising pronunciation. The pack is ideal for use with children with either EAL or SEND.

Visit uk.mantralingua.com

"THE EDUCATIONAL IMPACT OF THIS RESOURCE IS HIGH, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WITH SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DELAY AND EAL."



JUNE O'SULLIVAN MBE



I CAN -

Early Talkers Boxset

Suitable for practitioners and parents supporting young children in learning to talk, the Early Talkers boxset (£19.99)

includes ideas for all ages between birth and five years. Illustrated cards provide information on engaging and easy-to-do activities that support children to become skilled communicators. The three packs are organised into five sections, focusing on attention and listening and interaction, as well as skills for understanding and using words and sentences. Each comes with top tips and a planning guide too. Visit icancharity.org.uk

"EARLY TALKERS OFFERS SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE CREATIVE AND ENGAGING FOR CHILDREN."

JUNE O'SULLIVAN MBE

Little Creative Days -

POJO AND THE CHEST OF DREAMS: CREATE & SHOW KIT

Pojo and the Chest of Dreams (£48 ex. VAT) is part of a range of engaging storytelling kits that offer teachers the resources they need to help children develop their speaking, listening, story-writing and creativity. It comprises a book, a pop-up theatre to decorate, a teacher resource pack and materials to make a number of puppets. Visit littlecreativedays.co.uk

Category finalists...

RISEING STARS

Reading Planet: Lift-Off. Visit risingstars-uk.com

BOOGIE MITES

School Ready Literacy Through Music Programme. Visit boogiemites.co.uk



WINNERS

SEN Resource



EYP Direct –

SENSORY MOOD LIGHT TABLE

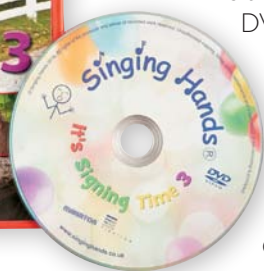
The ultra-strong illuminated hollow plastic Sensory Mood Light Table (£191.94) can be placed within a classroom or used in a sensory den as a softly lit table unit. Its remote control offers a choice of 16 different colours, which can also be set to fade smoothly through the entire spectrum of shades – from a cool ultraviolet to a warm red. The water-resistant table is powered by a safe low-voltage mains power supply, and with a six-hour charge cycle it can be used wherever it's needed, providing an average of 10 hours of light, inside or out. Visit eypdirect.co.uk



"THE CHILDREN WERE INSTANTLY FASCINATED WITH THE TABLE AND RUSHED TO USE IT. THERE WAS IMMEDIATE USE OF LANGUAGE ABOUT COLOURS AND INTEREST IN PUTTING ITEMS ON TOP."



KATHY BRODIE



SINGING HANDS It's Signing Time DVDs

This three-strong range of Makaton-signed DVDs (£12.99 each) teaches lots of useful signs for emotions, animals, transport, the alphabet, colours, numbers and many other concepts in a fun and engaging way. The range has been produced in association with the Makaton Charity, and includes a wide repertoire of popular preschool and early years songs, plus original Singing Hands material. Visit singinghands.co.uk

Category finalists...

PLAY TO Z

Fidget Floor Mat. Visit playtoz.co.uk

DRUMS FOR SCHOOLS

Shake, Rattle and Roll SEN Kit. Visit drumsforschools.com



CHILD'S PLAY -

Off To The Beach

This tactile title from Child's Play (£12.99) is designed with all readers in mind. It is accessible for children of various abilities and disabilities, including visual impairments, autism and disabilities that affect fine motor skills, and features brightly coloured illustrations by Cocoretto alongside interactive elements. Visit childs-play.com



WINNERS

Maths Resource



EYP Direct –

RAINBOW PEBBLES

With their distinctive colourful yet natural appearance, Rainbow Pebbles are ideal for developing fine motor, counting and sorting skills, as well as encouraging creative design. Children will have fun stacking them and improving their mathematical skills as they do so. The pack (£19.95) contains 36 pebbles in six sizes and six colours, plus 20 activity cards, all supplied in a sturdy plastic container.

Visit eypdirect.co.uk



"THIS VERSATILE RESOURCE WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO ANY CHILD-LED, OPEN-ENDED ENVIRONMENT."



KIRSTINE BEELEY



ORCHARD TOYS -

Spotty Dogs

A counting game for ages 3–6, Spotty Dogs (£7.50) tasks children with matching the number of spots on the titular dogs to the number on a spinner, and counting the number of bones in the dogs' basket on the other side. The player with the most bones at the end of the game is the winner! As the layout of the spots on the dogs isn't uniform, children are encouraged to count individually rather than just recognise a pattern from a die. Visit orchardtoys.com



TEN TOWN LTD

Ten Town

Ten Town is a subscription-based multimedia numeracy scheme combining a host of online content with over 300 printable support materials aligned to the EYFS, plus a wide range of physical resources, from role play tabards to reward sticker packs. It's designed to build strong basic numeracy skills, with a particular emphasis on number formation and recognition. Visit tentown.co.uk



Category finalists...

BUZZARD PUBLISHING

Little Livello. Visit buzzardpublishing.com

EARLY YEARS RESOURCES

Estimating Bags. Visit earlyyearsresources.co.uk

WINNERS

Role play Resource



EDUZONE –

Fruit and Veg Colour Sorting Set

These five stackable wooden crates come complete with 20 wooden fruit and vegetables, all colour-coded to allow children to develop their sorting and matching skills and practise shape recognition. The set would also make a useful addition to role play kitchens and shops.

The crates measure 35 x 15 x 11cm, and the set is suitable for ages 3+. It is priced at £37.95. Visit eduzone.co.uk



"ALTHOUGH WE HAVE OTHER WOODEN TOY FOOD, BOTH STAFF AND CHILDREN FOUND THIS VISUALLY APPEALING AND NICE TO HANDLE. IT HAS LOTS OF USES, WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLOUR MATCHING AND SOME MORE UNUSUAL FRUITS INCLUDED."

SARAH STEEL



THE CURIOUS FOX COMPANY -

Child's Writing Belt



Available in four different fabric designs to suit a range of interests and settings, the Writing Belt features lots of loops and pockets to ensure that young children can keep everything they need to practise their mark making skills close to hand when engaged in role play or investigations.

The belts are made from a tough washable material and are priced at £15. Visit curiousfoxcompany.co.uk



Category finalists...

HOPE EDUCATION

Chalkboard People Blocks.
Visit hope-education.co.uk

STAGE SYSTEMS

Early Years Staging Kit.
Visit stagesystems.co.uk



Pretend to Bee –

MINI-BEAST SNAIL TABARD

Minibeasts never cease to fascinate young children, and with this elasticated, one-size-fits-all tabard they can put themselves in a snail's shell as they play. It comes complete with an antennae-sporting hood and is priced at £18.95. Visit www.pretendtobee.co.uk

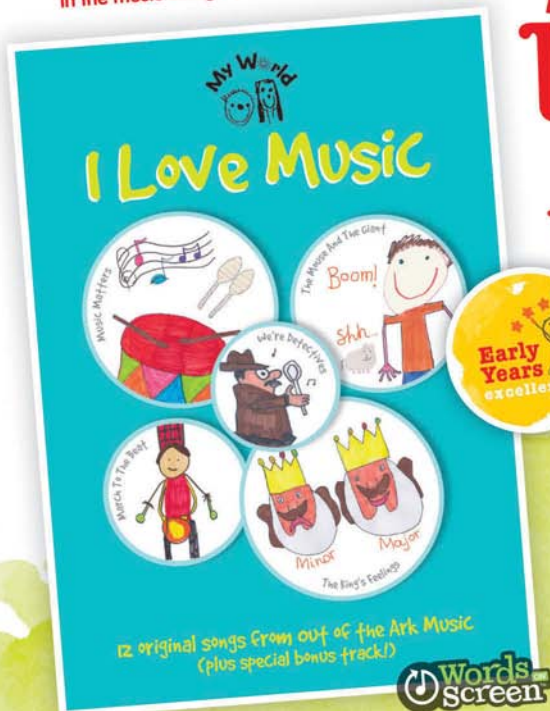


★ ★ ★ ★
**4 STAR
WINNER!**
in the music category

Award winning!

Age
4-8

**TEACH EARLY YEARS
EXCELLENCE AWARD**



A fabulous songbook that gives teachers everything they need to deliver a music lesson with confidence.

Teach musical elements like dynamics, pitch and rhythm with these easy-to-learn songs.



Out of the Ark Music

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Listen online at: www.outoftheark.com

Are your children's language skills ready for school?

I CAN
helps children
communicate

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**Talk
Boost**

Early Talk Boost is an award winning targeted intervention aimed at 3-4 year olds with delayed language skills.



A small group
intervention



A tracker to monitor the
progress of your child



A workshop for
parents and carers

Children who participated in Early Talk Boost made on average twice the amount of progress over children who did not take part.

www.earlytalkboost.org.uk

020 7843 2515

WINNERS

Music Resource



The Voices Foundation/
Alfred Publishing –

INSIDE MUSIC: EARLY YEARS

Inside Music is a framework that supports singing-based musical learning. This instalment includes a CD of 92 tracks covering song, rhyme, movement, instrument use and more. A selection of 11 'listening' tracks incorporate genres such as 'African' and 'Classical', to broaden young children's experiences. Visit voices.org.uk



"A BRILLIANTLY COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF SIMPLE TUNES WITH EQUALLY SIMPLE GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT THEIR USE. AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE FOR THE AGE GROUP."

SAM DIXON



OUT OF THE ARK -

I Love Music

I Love Music is full of ways to help children express themselves through music. A Teachers book includes notes and activities, plus lyric sheets and score. A CD features vocal and professional backing tracks, while a 'Words on Screen' CD-ROM makes displaying lyrics on an IWB simple. Visit outoftheark.co.uk



SOUND CHILDREN – Bambajam Pelangi

The Bambajam Pelangi kit enables children in early years settings and primary schools to connect with others and develop their skills through musical play. The instrument's double-sided frame invites collaboration: it can be used as a xylophone and duet instrument, while the keys can also act as single-toned percussion instruments. The kit includes the frame, 13 keys, six mallets, three song packs and flashcards (all stored in a convenient carry bag), plus access to an online library. Visit soundchildren.co.uk



Category finalist...

VAL SABIN PUBLICATIONS

Action Kids 88 Music & Movement. Visit valsabinpublications.com

FUNKY FEET MUSIC

Learning Through Play. Visit funkyfeetmusic.com

WINNERS

Creative Resource



"WE LIKED THIS; IT WAS LARGE, SUBSTANTIAL, EASY TO USE AND PLEASING TO HANDLE. THE CHILDREN ENJOYED USING IT AND THE STAFF FELT IT WAS TRULY OPEN-ENDED."

SARAH STEEL



U-NU –

U-nu Creative Construction Set



U-nu is an eco-friendly construction toy designed by nursery owners as a creative resource that promotes opportunities for instructive open-ended play. Suitable for children of all abilities aged 3 to 11 years, it consists of seven geometric shapes in five colours that slot together in a manner that allows

both individuals and groups to build large-scale structures – both realistic and abstract – quickly, without a plan.

The durable pieces are made from a moisture- and UV-resistant coloured wood that's non-toxic and easy to clean. It is priced from £94.99 for a 35-piece set. Visit u-nu.co.uk



KID K'NEX

The Kid K'NEX range features big, soft, chunky pieces that are suitable for children with varying manipulative skills. Impressive models are easily assembled (with or without the aid of the instructional diagrams), stay together during play and can be quickly dismantled and stored in sturdy snap-on-lid tubs. The pieces' vibrant colours and engaging designs appeal to boys and girls alike, while reinforcing colour and shape recognition, sorting and patterning problem-solving skills. Prices start at £12.99. Visit knex.co.uk

GIGI BLOKS

Interlocking Cardboard Building Blocks. Visit bigjigstoys.co.uk

GROWUPSMART

Luxynation Building Blocks. Visit growupsmart.co.uk

Category finalists...



T4Kids –

THE CLASSROOM HAMMERING AND DRILLING SET

The T4Kids Classroom Hammering and Drilling Set (£278.40) is a complete woodworking solution, specifically designed for use in early years settings. The box is jam-packed full of resources for children and adults, including safety equipment, tools, clamp boards and materials. Visit www.t4kids.co.uk



FANTASTIC IDEAS FOR EVERY EARLY YEARS SETTING!

Series
edited by
Alistair Bryce-Clegg



Awarded
4★ at the
Early Years
Excellence
Awards



Featherstone

BUY TWO 50 FANTASTIC'S FOR £15 AT BLOOMSBURY.COM/50FANTASTIC

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5 STAR EARLY YEARS EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

To celebrate our 5 Star Award, we'd like to offer readers of Teach Early Years the chance to try u-nu for **free for 30 days AND save 10%**

To claim your free trial visit www.u-nu.co.uk/5star



WINNERS

Understanding the World Resource



PRIMO – Cubetto



Cubetto is a LOGO Turtle-inspired, Montessori-approved wooden robot that helps children aged three and up learn the basics of computer programming without a need for screens or literacy. To do this it utilises a coding language made of colourful blocks, with each block representing an instruction – children guide the robot through a series of maps and stories by creating sequences of instructions using the blocks placed on the control panel. These sequences represent a child's very first program.

Cubetto is priced at £175. Learning can be extended with world maps, educational storybooks and challenges that take children on coding adventures. Visit primotoys.com/shop/cubetto



"CUBETTO IS IDEAL FOR A NURSERY SETTING. IT GIVES STAFF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPARK PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS IN THEIR KEY CHILDREN WHILE ENCOURAGING THEM TO WORK TOGETHER. IT ALSO LOOKS AN EXTREMELY ROBUST RESOURCE."

LISA SNELL



BLOOMSBURY EDUCATION -

50 Fantastic Ideas for Investigations

Exploring and investigating familiar objects and places gives children real experiences to think, plan and get involved in, both indoors and outside. Priced at £9.99, this book by Phill and Sally Featherstone contains a variety of ideas for early years investigations, some of which will extend far beyond the simple initial starting points. Visit bloomsbury.com



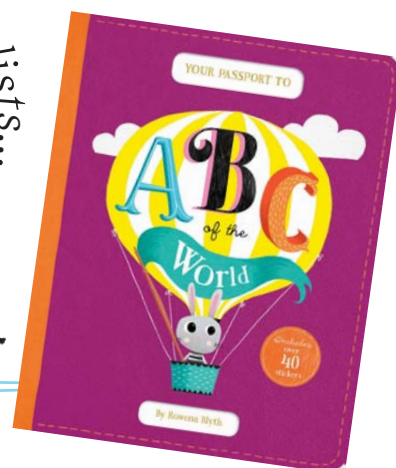
Category finalists...

GLOBE SMART KIDS

One Globe Kids. Visit oneglobekids.com

BOOKS AT PRESS

Minibeasts RE Think Topic Pack. Visit booksatpress.co.uk



Rowena Blyth –

ABC OF THE WORLD (FOURTH WALL PUBLISHING)

In *ABC of the World* Little Lapin travels around the world, from Australia to Zimbabwe, exploring iconic locations, popular landmarks and a host of cultures, introducing young learners to the diversity of communities on Earth. There's lots to spot, and sticker stamps to collect along the way. Visit fourthwallpublishing.com



WINNERS

Physical Development Resource



B INSPIRED -

Mini Moves Cards

B Inspired's Mini Moves Cards (£19.99) offer early years settings a useful collection of movement skills that children need to develop, alongside animal and number cards that encourage them to move in different ways. The cards can be used individually or combined to create 'Active Stories'. While promoting physical development is a key focus, they also help to build vital literacy and mathematics skills. Visit binspireduk.co.uk



"THIS IS A DIVERSE AND ALL-ROUND BRILLIANT RESOURCE. STAFF COULD EASILY IMPLEMENT THE ACTIVITIES INTO NURSERY LIFE, AND THERE ARE LOTS OF ADDED BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN, INCLUDING HELPING THEM TO STAY ACTIVE. MINI MOVES WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO A NURSERY SETTING."

LISA SNELL

Health Matters Education –

'BUSY FEET' EXPLORERS TOOLKIT

'Busy Feet' Explorers helps to boost activity in the under-fives while offering strategies to encourage parents and those in the wider community to adopt healthy, active lifestyles. It comprises interactive activity ideas, clearly written support materials, session plans, music CDs, DVD films and more, and supports all areas of learning across England's EYFS and the Early Years Foundation Phase in Wales. Visit healthmatterseducation.co.uk



EYP DIRECT

Whizzy Dizzy. Visit eypdirect.co.uk/whizzy-dizzy

HEATHER MAISNER

Dinosaur Douglas Series. Visit heathermaisner.com

POTTY TRAINING ACADEMY

Visit pottytrainingacademy.co.uk

Category finalists...

EYR Timber Treasures
ED1112 Pack £49.95



Creative Construction

Our Timber Treasures, developed for 2017, have been awarded 4 stars in the Outdoor Category of the Early Years Excellence Awards. This durable set of platforms and upright columns offers the perfect opportunity for outdoor building and block play. It's a fabulous open ended resource which is sure to add that extra dimension to creative play. Priced at £49.95 (exc. VAT).

SAVE 10% OFF* ALL ONLINE orders when you use discount code **TEY10** at checkout. This code can be used multiple times until 30/06/2017.

*Online use only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers.



Follow us:



earlyyearsresources.co.uk/tey



Pre-school and Primary

WINNERS

Outdoor Resource



Ur-Tubes –

AMAZING DEN KIT

Ur-Tubes' Amazing Den Kit (£49.99) allows you to build a host of different den structures from a few simple components – candy-coloured plastic tubes, red plastic connectors and a coloured throw. The kit comes with a step-by-step construction guide with a range of dens to try, including square and curved dens, a tent den and an igloo den. Each structure is light but robust, and easy to take apart and store, making them ideal for early years settings. Visit ur-tubes.co.uk



"THIS RESOURCE IS SO VERSATILE, OFFERING MANY POSSIBILITIES. IT WILL HELP CHILDREN TO BUILD BOTH THEIR CREATIVE AND COOPERATIVE THINKING SKILLS."

KIRSTINE BEELEY



EARLY YEARS RESOURCES -

Timber Treasures

Harvested from sustainably managed Yorkshire forests, this collection of timber offcuts features platforms and upright columns, inviting children to engage in open-ended building and block play. Creating multi-level structures is straightforward, while presenting plenty of opportunities for problem solving along the way. The set includes approximately 40 pieces and is priced at £69.95. Visit earlyyearsresources.co.uk



YELLOW DOOR –

Sensory Sound Eggs

These six tactile and realistic-looking speckled eggs (£20) make a variety of sounds when shaken – children will delight in finding out which eggs go together, then muddling them up again for another turn – and are ideal for outdoor investigations, including mud kitchen play. Visit yellow-door.net



SUTCLIFFE PLAY

Aliens. Visit sutcliffeplay.co.uk

BIKYBIKY

'Learn to cycle without stabilisers' vest. Visit bikybiky.uk

Category finalists...

WINNERS

CPD Resource



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – EFICL Pathways to Excellence Toolkit

Enhancing Family Involvement in Children's Learning (EFICL) – Pathways to Excellence comprises a range of resources to help practitioners evaluate their practice and encourage learning at home. Features include audit and reflection tools, a DVD and booklet focused on schemas, a guide to visiting families at home, and details of the 10-week Learning Links programme, designed to help families

understand child development.

A recent addition, the free-to-download SmarterPlay app, gives early years settings an accessible digital tool to share with home – features include the ability to capture special moments using text, video and photos, and regular pop-up suggestions of how parents and carers can get more involved with their children's learning. Visit threadsofsuccess.co.uk



"I REALLY LIKED THE WAY THAT THIS RESOURCE OFFERED CONCRETE IDEAS FOR BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS. A DIVERSE, PRACTICAL AND USEFUL 'HANDS-ON' CPD TOOLKIT FOR SETTINGS."

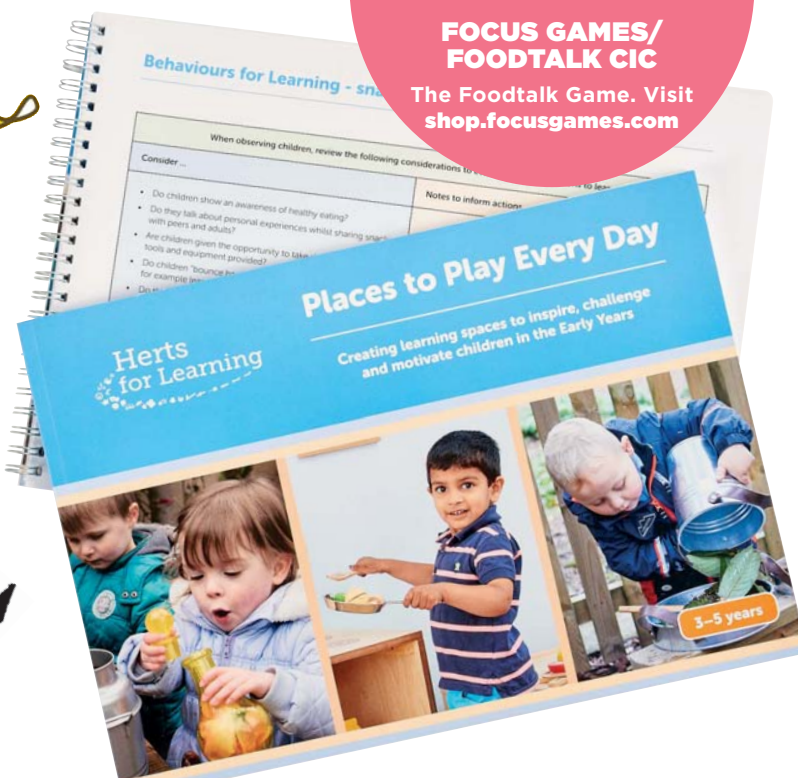
SUE COWLEY



Herts for Learning –

PLACES TO PLAY EVERY DAY

Places to Play Every Day is designed to help educators to create learning spaces that inspire, challenge and motivate children in the early years. A guidance book offers advice for settings on organising their environment to invite learning across a range of contexts, both indoors and out. The accompanying audit tool makes it easy to identify where improvement is needed. Visit hertsforlearning.co.uk



BRITISH COUNCIL -

English in Early Childhood

This massive open online course, suitable for both parents and practitioners and free to access, was developed to help adults support young children in learning English as an additional language. Spanning 12-hours over six weeks, it features articles, videos, live events and downloadable resources. Visit futurelearn.com/courses/english-in-early-childhood



Category finalists...

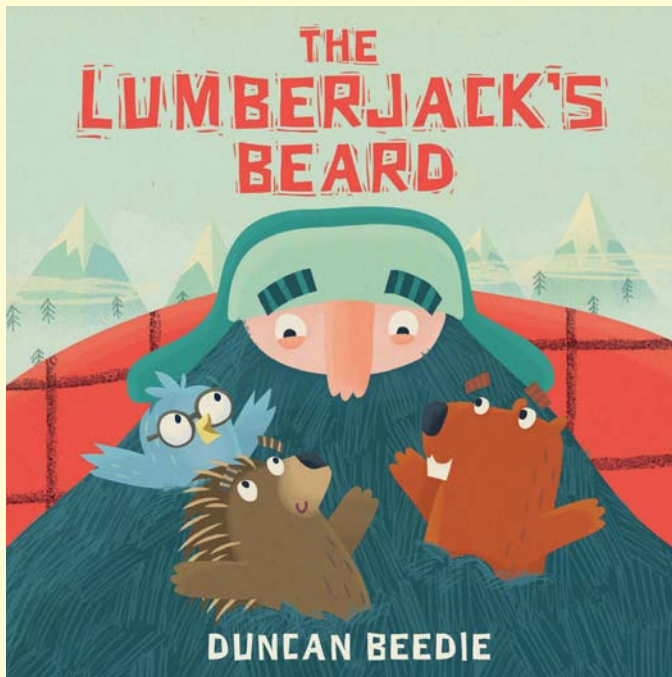
CHILD PROTECTION COMPANY

Safeguarding in Education: Early Years online training course. Visit childprotectioncompany.com

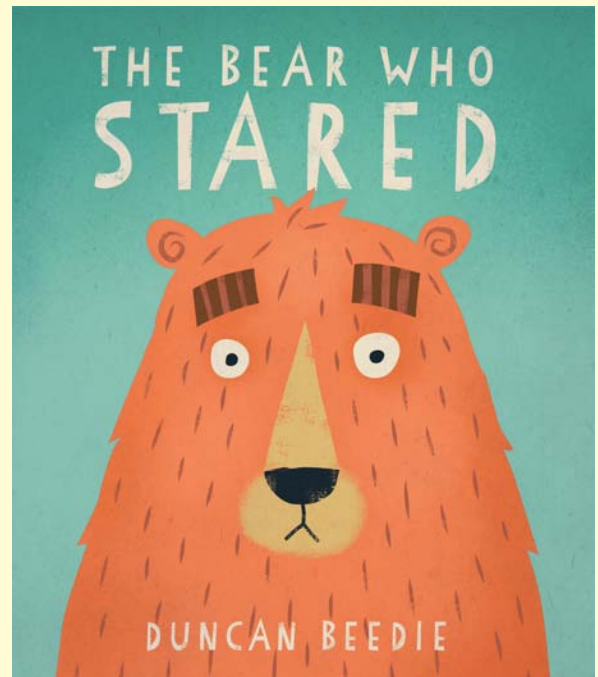
FOCUS GAMES/FOODTALK CIC

The Foodtalk Game. Visit shop.focusgames.com

Jim Hickory loves his job as a lumberjack, but the forest animals aren't so happy with his work...



Meet the Bear Who Stared – he doesn't mean to be rude, he just needs a little help making friends...



templar
publishing ●●●●●●●●

Duncan Beedie is a rising star among picture book author-illustrators – shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and commended by Teach Early Years judges, his stories foster friendship and empathy with their endearing characters, gentle themes and beautiful illustrations.



Early Years and Childcare Excellence

Threads of Success Pathways to Excellence: Multi Award Winning EFICL

Kent County Council's Early Years and Childcare Service is delighted to have won the 5 Star Early Years Excellence Award for our EFICL Toolkit. The EFICL (Enhancing Family Involvement in Children's Learning) Toolkit supports Early Years provisions in creating meaningful relationships with parents and families, ensuring they have the knowledge, skills and confidence to support their children's learning effectively.

Our innovative EFICL Toolkit has also recently won the Nursery World Awards 2016 for Staff Resources and was shortlisted for the Children and Young People Now Awards, so we are proud that EFICL continues to be recognised as a highly valuable resource by the sector.

The impact of the EFICL toolkit, and supporting training, is already being evidenced within Kent settings where reference to the work is being positively quoted in Ofsted Reports:

'A well-established programme of professional development helps staff to improve their knowledge, understanding and practice.

For instance, staff recently attended training in Enhancing Family Involvement in Children's Learning. From this, staff have devised a project to build on this at the setting'

Ofsted May 2016, Canterbury Day Nursery, Holiday Playscheme and ASC

The Award Winning EFICL Toolkit includes:

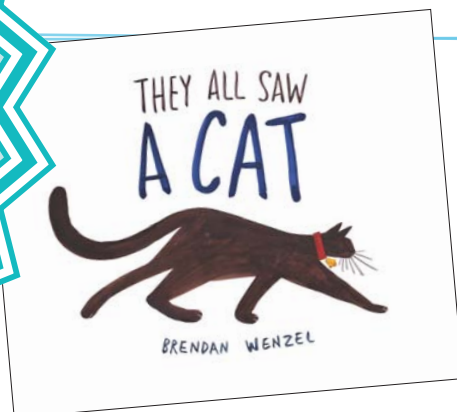
- EFICL Audit and Reflection Tools for Early Years Settings, Children's Centres and Out of School Providers
- An introductory DVD on "The Power of Schemas"
- An EFICL Strategies Booklet and Wall Planner
- EFICL "Getting to know you" – visits to family homes booklet
- SmarterPlay app - information on our exciting app for family learning
- EFICL Learning Links - information on our 10 week parenting programme - promoting rich family harmony

To understand more about EFICL or our wider Threads of Success suite of training, visits and products, please visit www.threadsofsuccess.co.uk or contact the Threads Coordinator at threadsofsuccess@kent.gov.uk or on 03000 422376.



WINNERS

Picture Books



BRENDAN WENZEL –

They All Saw A Cat
(Chronicle Books)

The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws... In this glorious celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Brendan Wenzel shows us the many lives of one cat, and how perspective shapes what we see. Visit abramsandchronicle.co.uk



"THEY ALL SAW A CAT MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT HOW OTHERS PERCEIVE THE WORLD AROUND US, WHICH IS AN EXCELLENT LESSON AND TALKING POINT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN. YES, ALL OF THE CHARACTERS SEE A CAT, BUT WENZEL'S BEAUTIFULLY VARIED ILLUSTRATIONS ALLOW THE READER TO EXPERIENCE IT THROUGH DIFFERENT EYES AND EMOTIONS. WONDERFULLY EXECUTED, UNIQUE, ENTERTAINING AND HIGHLY THOUGHT-PROVOKING."

STEVE ANTONY



MAGGIE TOKUDA-HALL / BENJI DAVIES –

Also an Octopus
(Walker Books)

Also an Octopus is a metafictional story about... how to build a story! Our hero is a ukulele-playing octopus that dreams of travelling to faraway galaxies in a purple spaceship - but first he must build his own spaceship out of glue, umbrellas, glitter and waffles. He doesn't have much luck at first, but is there another character who can help? Visit walker.co.uk



"I LOVE THE UNDERLYING MESSAGE OF 'ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IF YOU USE YOUR IMAGINATION' IN THIS BRIGHT, HUMOROUS AND BRILLIANTLY ILLUSTRATED BOOK."

★★★★
Duncan Beedie –
THE LUMBERJACK'S BEARD
(Templar Publishing)

Every day, Jim the lumberjack chops down trees. When his tree-felling leads to his woodland friends losing their homes, Jim comes up with a brilliant idea that will change the way they share the forest forever... Visit templarco.co.uk



Category finalists...

KES & CLAIRE GRAY / JIM FIELD

Oi Dog (Hodder Children's Books). Visit hachettechildrens.co.uk

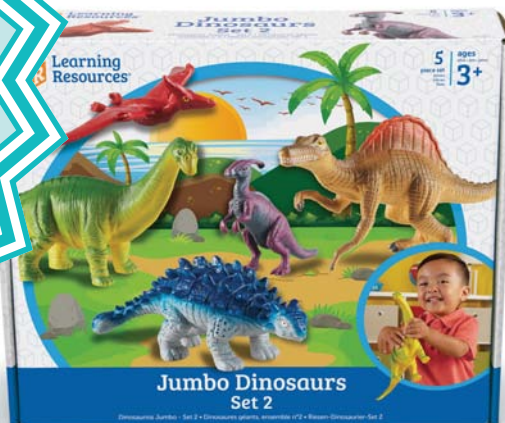
GABBY DAWNAY / ALEX BARROW

If I Had a Dinosaur (Thames & Hudson). Visit thamesandhudson.com

"THIS WONDERFULLY ILLUSTRATED TALE WARMLY REMINDS US TO RESPECT AND CONSERVE WILDLIFE AND ITS NATURAL HABITAT. IT'S ALSO A GREAT LESSON IN EMPATHY AND PROBLEM SOLVING."

WINNERS

Toy or Game



LEARNING RESOURCES Jumbo Dinosaurs Set 2

Children can enjoy imaginative Jurassic fun with this set (£28.10) of colourful prehistoric figures, which are sure to get them talking. The dinosaurs – Spinosaurus, Pteranodon, Ankylosaurus, Parasaurolophus and an Apatosaurus – are made from durable, wipeable plastic and are perfectly sized for little hands. Inside you'll also find an activity guide.

Visit learningresources.co.uk

Orchard Toys – MATCH AND SPELL

Encourage letter recognition, teach phonetic word building and promote matching of pictures and words both simple and complex with this game for ages four plus from Orchard Toys. There are two ways to play – children must either match the letter cards to the letters shown on their board in the correct order to build a word (a great way to introduce letter shapes and sounds); or, for more of a challenge, use the blank side of their boards and the letter cards to build the word of the picture shown. Friendly illustrations and simple gameplay add up to make Match and Spell (£7.50) Orchard Toys' bestselling language and literacy game. Visit orchardtoys.com



“WE USED MATCH AND SPELL TO HELP BUILD LETTER RECOGNITION, AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE OF LETTER SOUNDS AND BLENDING. THE CHILDREN WERE ABLE TO ENGAGE NO MATTER WHAT THEIR STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.”



KIDDI CARU COLCHESTER

Category finalists...

ZOOMER LTD

Zoomer Ride-on Toy.
Visit zoomer.co.uk

BIGJIGS TOYS

Medieval Train Set. Visit
bigjigstoys.co.uk



Bigjigs Toys - Green Toys Farm

This playset (£48.99) includes a barn, pick-up truck, farmer cow characters, sheep, pigs, fences and a hog shed for lots of imaginative play. As little ones tend the farm, they'll also develop fine motor skills and coordination. The pieces helpfully fit inside the barn, making clean-up and storage a breeze, while a built-in handle makes it easy to take the fun on-the-go. Visit bigjigstoys.co.uk



WINNERS

Under-twos Resource



PAT-A-CAKE

(HACHETTE CHILDREN'S GROUP)

First Baby Days Series

Part of the First Baby Days series *On the Move* and *Funny Faces* are bright and bold, high-contrast novelty-cased board books designed to stimulate a baby's developing vision. The striking illustrations by Mojca Dolinar are complemented in the former by multiple pull-out tabs, and in the latter by a mirror, while the simple text encourages adult interaction. Themed around vehicles and funny animals respectively, each title is priced at £5.99. Visit hachettechildrens.co.uk



"THE BOOKS ARE MADE FROM EXCELLENT THICK BOARD AND ARE GOOD QUALITY FOR THE COST. EVERYONE LOVED THE DOUBLE PULL-OUT TABS."

KATHY BRODIE



ORCHARD TOYS -

Farmyard Heads and Tails

Suitable for ages 18 months and above, this bold, colourful farmyard-themed game (£7.50) can be played both as a single player pairing activity or a memory game. Young players can start by turning the chunky farm cards picture-side up and trying to match the head and tail parts, while more advanced learners can test their memory by starting with the pictures down. Visit orchardtoys.com



Category finalists...

THE CURIOUS FOX COMPANY

A Pair of Traditional Treasure Baskets. Visit curiousfoxcompany.co.uk

PLAY TO Z

Treasures Baskets for Adult- and Child-Led Play. Visit playtoz.co.uk



Val Sabin Publications

ACTION BABIES (BIRTH-12 MONTHS)

The *Action Babies* book features 100 activity ideas for infants aged 0-6 months and a further 100 for those aged 6-12 months, and is accompanied by a CD of music. The activities help to develop gross and fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, vision and sound recognition. Visit valsabinpublications.com





Val Sabin Publications & Training

Action Kids Early Years Movement Play



Active Play
Every Day Level 1

NEW

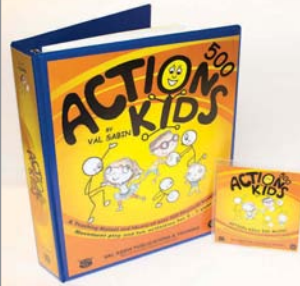


Active Play
Every Day Level 2

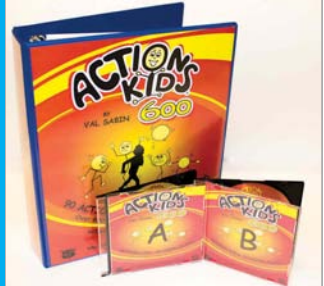
NEW



Action Kids 500



Action Kids 600



Action Kids 162



Action Kids
After School Clubs



Action Kids 121



Action Kids Babies



Action Kids At Home



Action Kids Music
and Movement



Action Kids Training

Nursery staff.
Reception teachers.
Teaching assistants.
Childminders.
Contact us for details

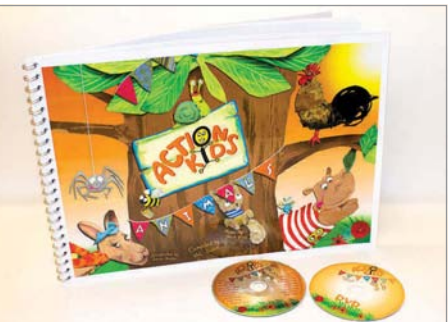
Action Kids Stories



Action Kids My Busy Week



Action Kids Animals



Action Kids Song & Rhyme



Book 1



Book 2



Book 3

Sporty and Friends Get Fit



Sporty and Friends
Explore the Countryside



Contact us to place an order:

Val Sabin Publications & Training
125 Harlestone Road,
Northampton, NN5 6AA
web: www.valsabinpublications.com
email: info@valsabinpublications.com
tel: 01604 580974 fax: 01604 584643

The award-winning guide for all Early Years practitioners



4 star winner in the CPD Category of the Early Years Excellence Awards 2017



Places to Play Every Day sets out clear guidance on developing each area of provision including information on the adult's role, resource ideas and skills to be taught in a variety of contexts. The guidance at £35* can be purchased from the Herts for Learning online shop (hertsforlearning.co.uk). A supplementary audit book is also available at £15* to support ongoing self-evaluation.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER: SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE BOTH PUBLICATIONS FOR £45* OR VISIT HERTS FOR LEARNING'S ONLINE SHOP



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*Excluding VAT and P&P