



TEACH EARLY YEARS AWARDS 2023

YOUR GUIDE TO OUR WINNERS IN EVERY CATEGORY



**Outstanding educational resources • Fantastic CPD
to upskill your team • The best new picture books**



We understand what a challenge it can be for early years professionals to find high-quality products at reasonable prices.

Whether you're looking for resources that provide a wealth of

learning opportunities for children, or a CPD course to develop skills and keep up-to-date with best practice, we're here to make finding high-quality early years products as easy as possible.

The Teach Early Years Awards is a celebration of our sector's educational and professional development resources. Each year, we put the call out for the best early years products across the key categories of communication, language & literacy; CPD; creative play; early exploration; happy & healthy; and picture books.

This year, our shortlist featured a wide variety of innovative resources. Our expert panel of judges – including early years authors, educators, consultants and leaders – put products to the test to select the winners for each category. Resources were judged on their educational value, cost, and capacity to withstand the rigours of use in a busy early years setting. With a winning resource and two highly commended resources in each category, I hope you enjoy exploring the winning resources and find some exciting inspiration for your setting.

Elaine Bennett, Digital Content Manager



HOW WE JUDGED

From a host of nominations spanning six trade categories and covering learning, development and CPD across the early years, we compiled a shortlist of 36 worthy finalists.

- Our judges were asked to assess these finalists, taking into account effectiveness and value for money, as well as originality and accessibility. Where applicable, resources were put through their paces in real settings.
- At the end of the process, our judges picked a winner and two highly commended resources in each category.

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Meet the six members of our judging panel.

5 CPD

Resources supporting the development of outstanding practice, from books to online training courses.

7 Creative play

Recognising resources designed to support role play, messy play

or construction play, as well as art and craft activities.

9 Early exploration

For maths and science resources, and all resources designed to help children broaden their understanding of the world.

11 Communication, language & literacy

All resources designed to promote the development of

communication and language skills, early writing and/or reading.

12 Happy & healthy

Resources supporting physical development, nutrition and PSED, including those designed to promote children's wellbeing.

13 Picture books

Illustrated story books aimed at children under five.

MEET THE JUDGES

We wouldn't be able to run the **Teach Early Years Awards** without the kind support of our judging panel. We'd like to extend our thanks to all those below for their help.



JAMEL C CAMPBELL

Jamel is an early years educator, consultant and author. He's been in the industry for over 20 years and is one of the UK's Men in the Early Years ambassadors. Jamel is passionate about the importance of having a diverse and inclusive workforce, curriculum and pedagogy. He also offers training workshops based around representation and staff wellbeing. Follow him on Twitter at [@JamelCarly](https://twitter.com/JamelCarly)



SUE COWLEY

Sue is an experienced teacher, writer and presenter, specialising in behaviour management, creative teaching and learning. A qualified primary school teacher, she helps to run her local preschool, as chair of the management committee. She is the author of *Learning Behaviours: A Practical Guide to Self-Regulation in the Early Years* and *The Ultimate Guide to Mark Making in the Early Years*. Visit suecowley.co.uk



EMMA DAVIS

Emma is an early years lecturer having previously managed an outstanding preschool. She is a PhD student, forest school leader and mental health first aider. Emma is a regular contributor to Teach Early Years, both in print and online, sharing inspiring ideas and best practice as well as book reviews. She particularly enjoys outdoor play, picture books and loose parts play. Follow Emma on Twitter at [@EmmaDee77](https://twitter.com/EmmaDee77)



RAGEENA TAHIR

Rageena joined Fennies as a Regional Quality Manager, with over 11 years of experience working in nurseries and teaching children English as an additional language. She developed her role to become Head of Education. Holding a level 6 qualification in childcare herself, Rageena now works alongside the internal education specialists to curate specific modules and refine learning activities within Fennies nurseries. Visit fennies.com



LAURA ENGLAND

Laura England, also known as Little Miss Early Years, is an early years teacher with an MA in education, an award-winning author, play advocate, columnist, podcast host and early years millennial. She specialises in loose parts play, open-ended environments and learning through play. Visit littlemissearlyyears.com



JUNE O'SULLIVAN MBE

June O'Sullivan MBE is CEO of the London Early Years Foundation (LEYF), one of London's largest charitable social enterprises, operating 40 nurseries in some of London's most disadvantaged areas. An inspiring speaker, author, podcaster and expert on early years, social business and child poverty, June is a tireless 'disruptor'. She strives to make society a better place for all children and their families. Visit leyf.org.uk

TTS CPD TRAINING HUB



At TTS, we are passionate about improving children's learning outcomes and know that continuing professional development is paramount to delivering quality education.

Our series of free CPD accredited educational podcasts and assessments aim to deliver pedagogical insights and practical guidance to support Early Years educators with subject knowledge, planning and personal development opportunities.

DISCOVER OUR CPD COURSES

SERIES 1:

Enriching learning opportunities outdoors

SERIES 2:

Developing key skills through play

SERIES 3:

Inclusive practise in the Early Years



DISCOVER CPD AT [TTS-GROUP.CO.UK/PODCAST](https://www.tts-group.co.uk/podcast)

THE WINNERS

CPD

WINNER

Adventures with Alice - Dynamic Training for Early Years (Alice Sharp Ltd)

Adventures with Alice is an online digital training programme for everyone working with babies, toddlers and young children. The training is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and merges educational theory, cutting edge thinking and inspiring practice. In total there's over 100 hours of training – making it flexible for all sorts of providers in early years.

Visit alicesharp.co.uk



"Alice provides a good mix of engaging and high-quality training through the Adventures with Alice volumes, all of which build upon one another to provide a holistic training package."

Laura England

Highly commended

Talking Early Years Podcast and CPD Training (TTS)

The TTS Talking Early Years podcast was launched in January 2023. It delivers inspirational ideas and helps to support practitioners' subject knowledge, planning and progression. Visit the TTS CPD training hub where you can listen to the podcasts and access a follow-up CPD assessment.

Visit tts-group.co.uk



"This free CPD from some of our leading Early Years voices covers everything from outdoor learning and risky play to representation and gender. It's a must-listen for all in the sector."

Laura England

Category finalists

- The National College (The National College)
- Laser Short Courses (Laser Short Courses)
- The Neuroscience of the Developing Child: Self-Regulation for Wellbeing and a Sustainable Future (Mine Conkbayir Consultancy)

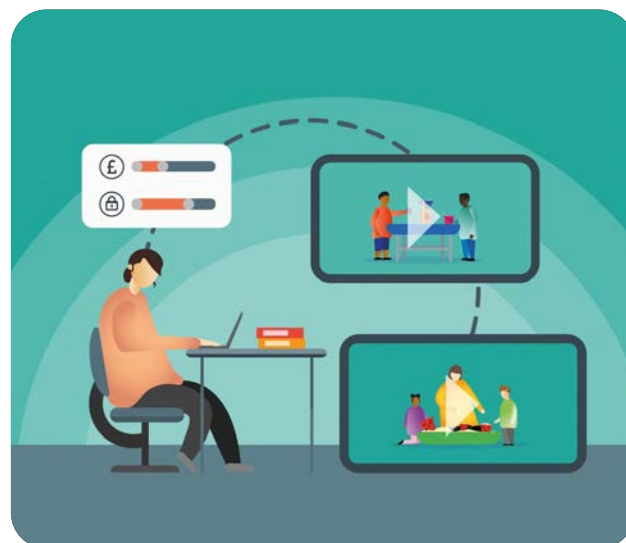


Highly commended

Early Years Evidence Store (EEF)

Developed with funding from the DfE as part of its Stronger Practice Hubs programme, this resource empowers early years professionals to use education evidence to make informed choices and implement approaches with the best chance of success.

Visit educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk



"This resource bridges the gap between practice and research, making research accessible and useful to all."

Laura England

Multi award winners!



2017

Timber Treasures 34pc
Winner in outdoor resources



2020

Tuff Tray Paper Pad
Finalist in creative play category



2022

Watch me Grow Planter
Finalist in early exploration



2023

Wooden People with Disabilities
Winner of happy and healthy category



2018

Wooden Superhero Figures with Cards
Winner of happy and healthy category



2021

Spider House
Winner of the early exploration category



2022

The Tiger Who Came to Tea Story Set
Winner of communication, language and literacy category



2023

Pretend Pizza Oven and Tool
finalist for creative play



Visit **EYR** to browse more award winners

THE WINNERS

Creative play

WINNER

Storytime Dress-up Capes - 'Once Upon a Time...' (Pretend to Bee)

This versatile set is perfect for everyday creative role play as well as special events such as World Book Day and school plays. The capes are machine washable, fully lined and come with a Velcro neck fastening. The high-quality stitching and hemming ensure a durable design and comfortable fit.

Visit pretendtoabee.co.uk



"These dressing up clothes have been a hit in our pre-school room, sparking imaginative play with all our children."

Rageena Tahir

Category finalists

- Dip into Drama (Pyjama Drama)
- Frobel Building Kit Wagon (Creating Classrooms Ltd)
- Pretend Pizza Oven and Tool (EYR)

Highly commended Multi-Purpose Craft, Sewing and Weaving Frame (Wood U Believe It Ltd)

This multi-purpose frame comes with four interchangeable panels for different activities. These include a peg board for sewing and weaving, hessian for sewing and simple embroidery, wire mesh for ribbon weaving and perspex for drawing designs for children to replicate. These will help children develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and much more.

Visit woodubelieveit.co.uk



"This has been a fantastic addition to our play area, enhancing hand-eye coordination skills."

Rageena Tahir

Highly commended Wisdom Outdoor Construction Blocks (Profile Education Ltd)

These uniquely designed construction blocks include plug in joint blocks that link blocks together, meaning that children can build more stable and stackable structures and enhance their building and creativity skills.

Visit profile-education.co.uk

"It was great to see how children used their imaginations to engage with these - each coming up with their own ways to play."

Rageena Tahir



Our award-winning products



Gonge Nordic Build N' Balance Starter Set

An exciting and challenging balancing system – allowing children to use their imagination to set up and build various balance courses and landscapes.

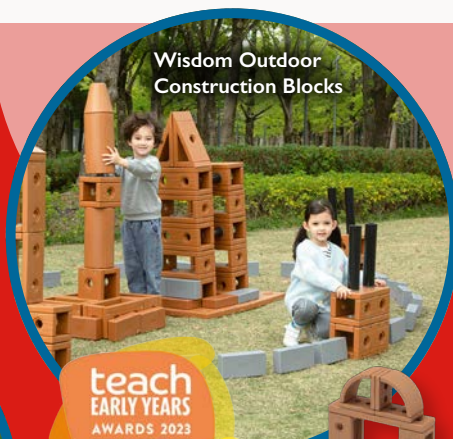


A great STEM activity, teaching children about gravity, angles, and water flow.



Wisdom Water Wallboard

teach
EARLY YEARS
AWARDS 2023
HIGHLY
COMMENDED



Wisdom Outdoor Construction Blocks

teach
EARLY YEARS
AWARDS 2023
HIGHLY
COMMENDED



Supports a STEM and STEAM approach to learning by developing and encouraging problem solving, perseverance and creative thinking.

Discover more unique & exciting products to create your perfect indoor & outdoor classroom on our website www.profile-education.co.uk



Product videos available

a world of imagination

teach
EARLY YEARS
AWARDS 2023
WINNER

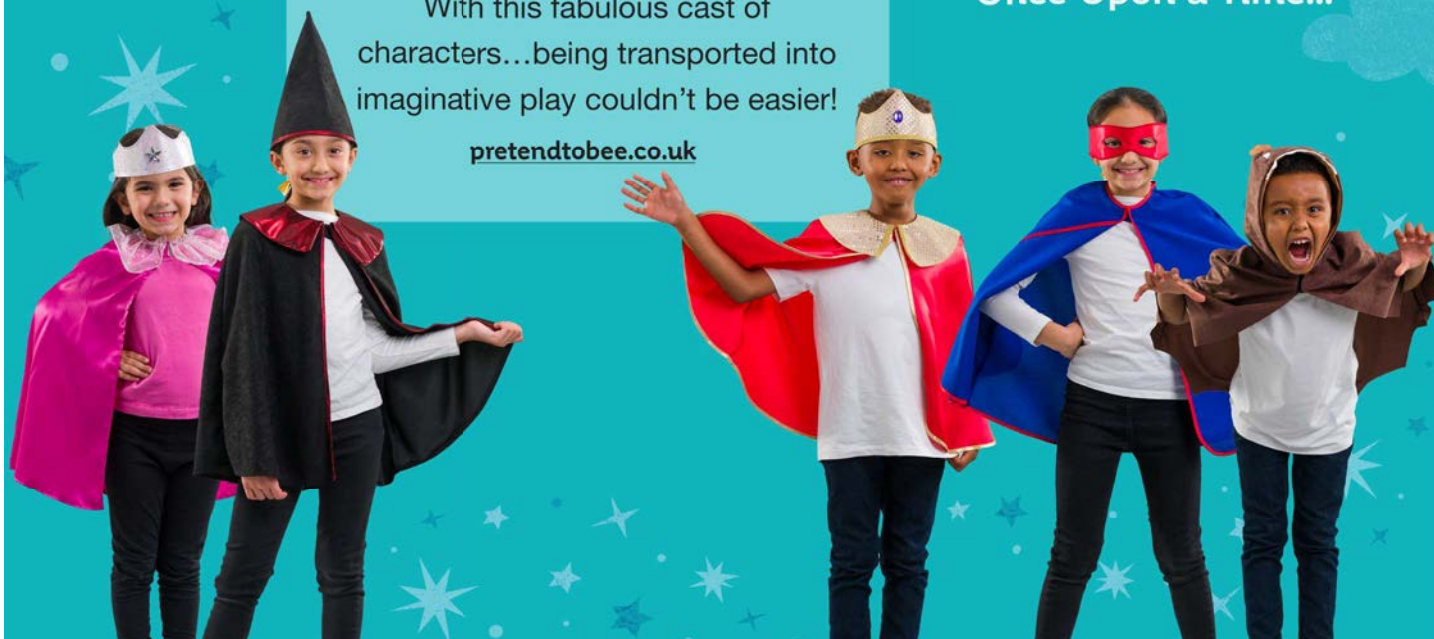
Pretend
to Bee®

A child's imagination is a wonderful thing and children love nothing more than creating a world of their own.

With this fabulous cast of characters...being transported into imaginative play couldn't be easier!

pretendtoabee.co.uk

Storytime Dress-up Capes
'Once Upon a Time...'



THE WINNERS

Early exploration

WINNER

MathLink® Cubes Numberblocks Classroom Set (Learning Resources®)

This resource helps you bring the maths concepts seen in the award-winning CBeebies TV series Numberblocks to life in your setting. The set includes everything 12 pairs of pupils need to complete the 60 x 15-minute maths learning activities included in the comprehensive 88-page teacher's guide.

Visit learningresources.co.uk



"As well as being great for maths learning, this is also great to support fine motor development and creativity."

Sue Cowley



Category finalists

- Number Houses – Numberland Series (Creating Classrooms Ltd)
- BBC Bitesize Reception – Expressive Art and Design (BBC Education)
- Tell Me About: The Human Body (Bonnier Books UK)

Highly commended Kide Science (Kide)

This comprehensive teacher platform is full of training and lesson plans, all of which follow Kide's 'Playful Inquiry' approach. Every lesson creates a purposeful, action-packed learning environment for children. Kide engages children to solve active, story-world problems, leading to aha-moments to remember forever.

Visit kidescience.com



"This approach is playful and fun, based on child-centred inquiry methods"

Sue Cowley

Highly commended Wisdom Outdoor Water Wallboard (Profile Education Ltd)

This resource is designed to encourage children to have fun playing with water while at the same time learning to understand how water flows.

Children can adjust the pipes and channels to change the direction of flow.

Visit profile-education.co.uk



"This resource is very useful for supporting children to learn about the science of water through play"

Sue Cowley



Boogie Mites

Building Strong Foundations for Language and Literacy Through Music

Boosts focus and attention

Strengthens sound processing and rhythmic awareness

Supports language, pre-phonics and literacy skills

Nurtures confidence and creativity

Results in smiling faces and dancing feet

Includes 10 Musical Poems written with Michael Rosen,
Children's Laureate, Professor of Children's Literature at
Goldsmiths University and author of
'We're Going On A Bear Hunt.'



Visit our website shop to subscribe
to our Boogie Mites App with 1 month free trial

www.boogiemites.co.uk/shop/boogie-mites-app/

Multi-license package available, contact sue@boogiemites.co.uk for more info

CPD courses for childcare practitioners

Our award-winning short courses are a flexible, low-cost training option for all staff members from entry-level to management. Written by childcare and early years experts, they cover important personal and professional development topics, and are endorsed by the awarding organisation CACHE.

- ✓ **Online access** on laptop, tablet, and mobile
- ✓ Includes **videos, quizzes**, and more
- ✓ Management can **track staff progress**
- ✓ **CACHE, NCFE**, and **Skills For Care** endorsed
- ✓ **Regularly updated** to reflect legislation
- ✓ **Bulk discounts** and subscriptions available

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Laser
Learning

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THE WINNERS

Communication, language & literacy

WINNER

Large Box of Letters (Clicko AB)

The unique thing about this resource is the built-in magnets and easy-to-grip wooden parts.

It makes it possible for children to create letters, numbers, words or digits even if they struggle with fine motor skills, have a visual impairment or have difficulty concentrating.

Visit clicko.se/world-of-clicko



"These helped the children with their fine motor, literacy and social skills (waiting and turn taking). I've not seen anything like this and think that it is a wonderful, innovative idea."

June O'Sullivan MBE



Category finalists

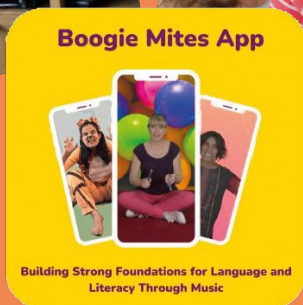
- Supporting the Development of Speech, Language and Communication in the Early Years (Jessica Kingsley Publishers)
- The Whole of Me (The Whole of Me)
- Miss LVT Range for Mrs Mactivity (Mrs Mactivity)

Highly commended

Boogie Mites App (Boogie Mites)

This app includes original songs and music videos presented by experienced early years music teachers. The songs are written by Boogie Mites, based on neuroscience evidence to develop auditory, motor and visual neural processing networks through fun, upbeat music activities.

Visit boogiemites.co.uk



"This is a perfect way to encourage children to develop movements while listening and following instructions."

June O'Sullivan MBE

Highly commended

Polylino (Polylino)

This online reading resource provides nursery practitioners and managers with a multilingual digital library aligned with the EYFS and KS1 curriculums which you can use to support language and literacy development in nursery and at home.

There are over 650 books to choose from.

Visit ilteducation.com



"We have staff, parents and children who speak different languages so having access to this amount of books is brilliant."

June O'Sullivan MBE

THE WINNERS

Happy & healthy



Category finalists

- Learn with Peppa: Peppa's Big Feelings (Ladybird)
- All About Me Feelings Activity Set (Learning Resources®)
- 'Stay Healthy' Food Pyramid (Creating Classrooms Ltd)

Wooden People With Disabilities (EYR)

Whether a child has a cochlear implant or has a member of the family with vitiligo, they should feel represented inside your classroom. It's crucial to children's social and emotional wellbeing. This diverse nine-piece figures set features people with nine different disability 'superpowers', from limb difference to Down's syndrome.

Visit earlyyearsresources.co.uk



"This is a diverse, current, relevant and inclusive resource."

Jamel C Campbell

Highly commended

Gonge Build N' Balance Nordic Starter Set (Profile Education Ltd)

This starter set includes elements for building a whole balance course. Combine the elements in countless ways to build your landscape. It's easy to vary the level of difficulty to suit the development levels of your children. You can build at heights from 10cm to 24cm – depending on how brave your little ones are!

Visit profile-education.co.uk



"This resource allows children to explore risk and develop their balance and body awareness – fantastic!"

Jamel C Campbell

Highly commended

50 Fantastic Ideas for Supporting Neurodiversity by Kerry Murphy and Fifi Benham (Bloomsbury Publishing)

This dip-in-and-out guide will help you to adapt your teaching style to become more inclusive of children with neurodiverse conditions. It provides meaningful and innovative ideas that you can embed into your everyday practice. Visit bloomsbury.com



"I really enjoyed looking through this book, not least because it's created by two amazing Early Years professionals."

Jamel C Campbell

THE WINNERS

Picture books

WINNER

The Artist by Ed Vere (Penguin Random House Children's)

From award-winning Ed Vere comes a joyful exploration of the inner artist in all of us. It celebrates children's urge to create art and share it – and, crucially, points out that mistakes don't matter.

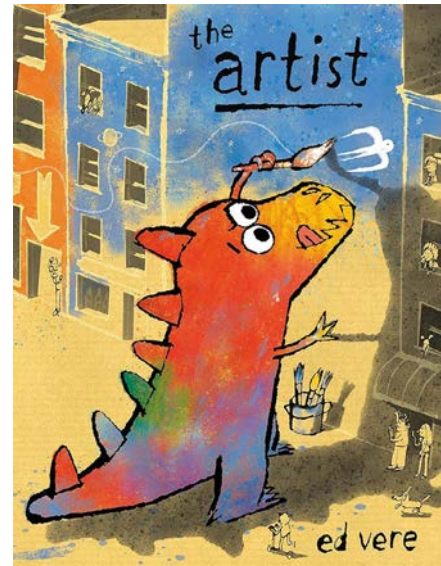
The Artist was directly inspired by the Power of Pictures campaign – the programme Vere co-created with CLPE to promote visual literacy.

Visit penguin.co.uk



"There is scope here for discussing feelings, our imaginations, bravery and determination."

Emma Davis



Category finalists

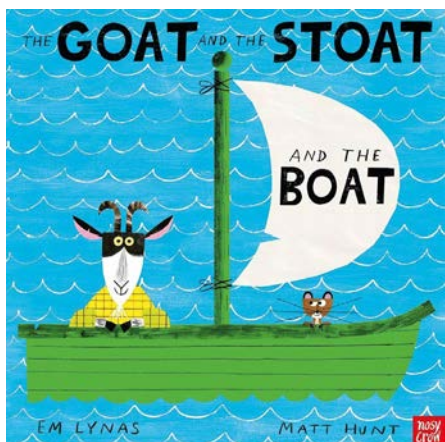
- I Am Nefertiti by Natelle Quek and Annemarie Anang (Five Quills)
- Flora and Nora Hunt for Treasure by Kim Hillyard (Ladybird)
- Mrs Owl's Forest School: The Very Big Den by Ruth Symons and Seb Braun (Bonnier Books UK)

Highly commended

The Goat and the Stoat and the Boat by Em Lynas and Matt Hunt (Nosy Crow Ltd)

This hilarious, read-aloud picture book is bursting with comic capers and animal antics. It features a hilarious, tongue-twister text, slapstick humour, bright neon artwork and colourful characters.

Visit nosycrow.com



"This raucous rhyming story features repeated refrains which children will love joining in with."

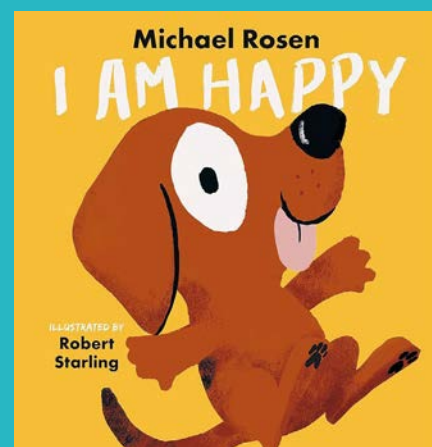
Emma Davis

Highly commended

I Am Happy by Michael Rosen and Robert Starling (Walker Books)

This uplifting picture book focuses on how it feels to be happy. It's perfect for reading aloud and sharing with little ones. It features humorous rhyming couplets by beloved children's poet, Michael Rosen, and illustrations by exciting new talent, Robert Starling.

Visit walker.co.uk



"It's a fantastic book for encouraging children to talk about what makes them happy."

Emma Davis