



TEACH EARLY YEARS AWARDS 2024

**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 34 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.

Contents

3 Meet the judges

Meet the six members of our judging panel.

4 Picture books

Illustrated story books aimed at children under five.

5 Communication, language & literacy

All resources designed to promote the development of communication and language

skills, early writing and/or reading.

7 CPD

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

9 Creative play

Recognising resources designed to support role play, messy play or construction play, as well as art and craft activities.

10 Happy & healthy

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

11 Early exploration

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

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)



CHERYL HADLAND

Cheryl Hadland is founder and chair of Tops Day Nurseries, a group of eco-sustainable childcare settings across the south coast. Cheryl is an advocate for sustainable practices within the early years sector, implementing green initiatives such as reducing plastic use, cutting waste and using eco-friendly resources. She is also dedicated to supporting career growth opportunities for staff through the Aspire Training Team. Visit topsdawnurseries.co.uk



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 [instagram.com/littlemissearlyyears](https://www.instagram.com/littlemissearlyyears)



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

THE WINNERS

Picture books

WINNER

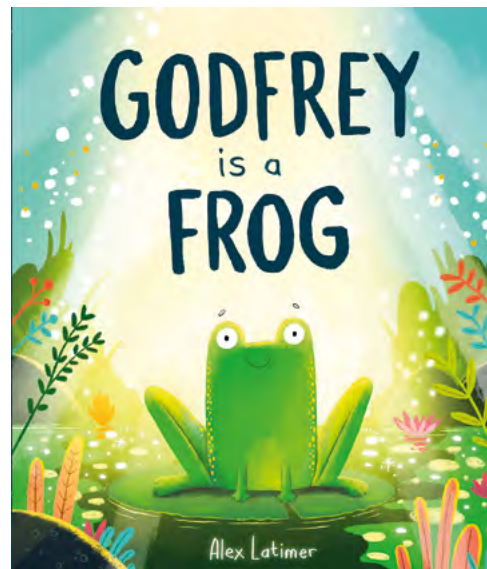
Godfrey is a Frog by Alex Latimer (Oxford University Press)

Godfrey used to be a tadpole. Now he is a frog. He doesn't think it's a very exciting thing to be. Can his friends show him just how special he really is? Alex Latimer brings his trademark humour and wonderful characters to this affirming picture book, with an important story about learning to love yourself. The story is also perfect for exploring life cycles and eco systems. Visit global.oup.com/education



"This wonderful story of friendship and acceptance conveys the important message of loving who you are"

Emma Davis



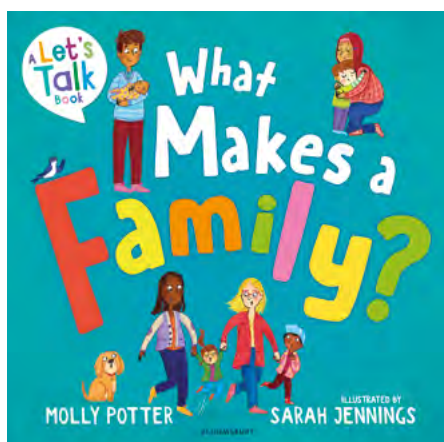
Category finalists

- Animal Tales from India: Ten Stories from the Panchatantra by Nikita Gill, illustrated by Chaaya Prabhat (Nosy Crow)
- The Boy Who Loves to Lick the Wind by Fiona Carswell, illustrated by Yu Rong (Otter-Barry Books)
- Flower Block by Lanisha Butterfield, illustrated by Hoang Giang (Penguin Random House Children's)

Highly commended

What Makes a Family? by Molly Potter, illustrated by Sarah Jennings (Bloomsbury Publishing)

This book covers a wide range of family structures including nuclear, blended, LGBTQ+, single-parent, fostering, and adoption, making it truly inclusive and reflective of the diverse realities children encounter today. Visit bloomsbury.com



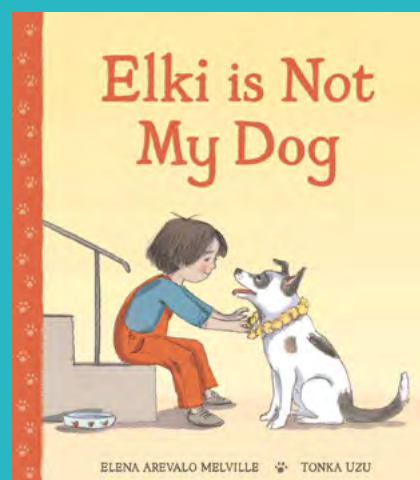
"Fantastic for helping children understand that families can be different to our own, but no less special"

Emma Davis

Highly commended

Elki Is Not My Dog by Elena Arevalo Mellville, illustrated by Tonka Uzu (Scullywag Press)

This book imagines what it's like to arrive in a new place without friends, money or a place to stay, via the metaphor of a stray dog. It shows the importance of responsibility to others, and the joy this can bring. Visit scullywagpress.com



"Inspires conversations around values and what it means to have a home and place to feel loved"

Emma Davis

THE WINNERS

Communication, language & literacy

Category finalists

- Picture News Early Years (Picture News)
- Ready Steady Phonics (Literacy Counts)
- Reading Planet Rocket Phonics First Steps (Hodder Education)

WINNER

Polylino (Giglets Education)

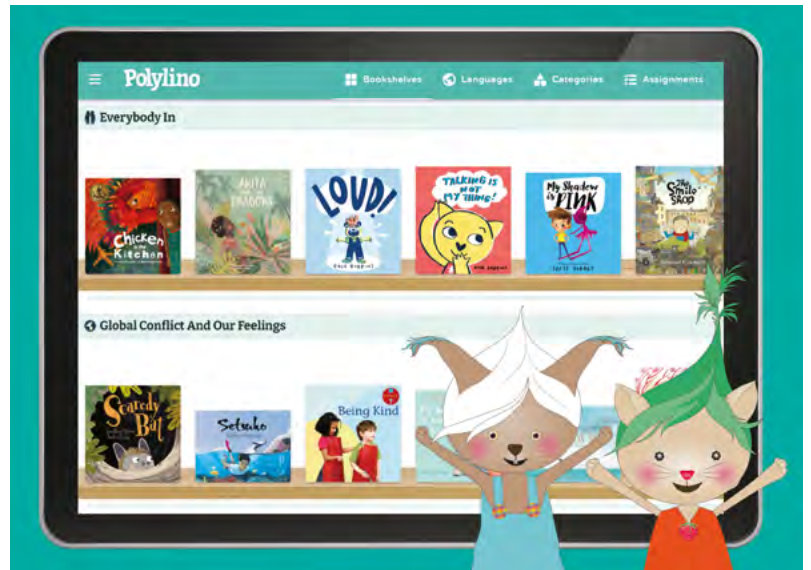
Polylino is a groundbreaking multilingual digital picture book service for children aged 0-7. It is specifically tailored for nursery practitioners and managers, aligning seamlessly with the EYFS and KS1 curriculums. What sets Polylino apart is its vast digital library of over 700 books in more than 65 languages.

Visit ilteducation.com



"The app/website is easy to use and navigate. It has so many books - we want to read or listen to them all!"

June O'Sullivan MBE



Highly commended WellComm Digital (GL Assessment (a Renaissance Company))

WellComm Digital is a speech and language toolkit featuring a user-friendly interface, efficient screening, targeted interventions and easy ways to share your findings with parents and other professionals. Visit gl-assessment.co.uk



"WellComm is a great tool for assessing children's communication and language"

June O'Sullivan MBE

Highly commended Rhyme Town (Mrs Mactivity)

This fully planned 12-week pre-reading and pre-writing scheme for Nursery and Reception contains lesson plans, an engaging animated presentation containing the nursery rhyme and all accompanying resources. Visit mrsactivity.co.uk



"These resources help you introduce literacy through mark making activities related to a different theme every week"

June O'Sullivan MBE

"...the creator of this induction understands what employers want from an induction and how to make it engaging for the participant..."
TeachCo Awards Judge

"The layout and material of the course was clear and concise... a great course for new staff members into the industry".

Nursery Manager

teach
EARLY YEARS
AWARDS 2024
WINNER

EMPOWERING EARLY YEARS: AWARD WINNING E-LEARNING FROM HFL EDUCATION.

Effective recruitment and retention of early years practitioners begins with a great induction programme. Our innovative EYFS e-learning induction programme can help new and returning Early Years staff build the skills they need to be effective Early Years practitioners.

Including four modules of self-paced e-learning, the award-winning programme allows you to explore your role in greater detail supporting your practice along the way.



Scan to find out more

*Award Offer
only £99
+ VAT*

HFL Education

01438 544 464
hfleducation.org



THE WINNERS

CPD

Category finalists

• The National College
(National Education Group)

WINNER

EYFS Induction e-learning programme (HFL Education)

This innovative, four-part, self-paced e-learning induction programme is designed to support practitioners who are new or returning to Early Years. Each module allows practitioners to explore their role in greater detail, supporting their practice along the way with reflective tasks. Using a wide range of engaging learning styles, participants can learn at their own pace in a way that suits them best.

Visit hub.hfleducation.org



"The creator of this induction understands what employers want from an induction and how to make it engaging for the participant"

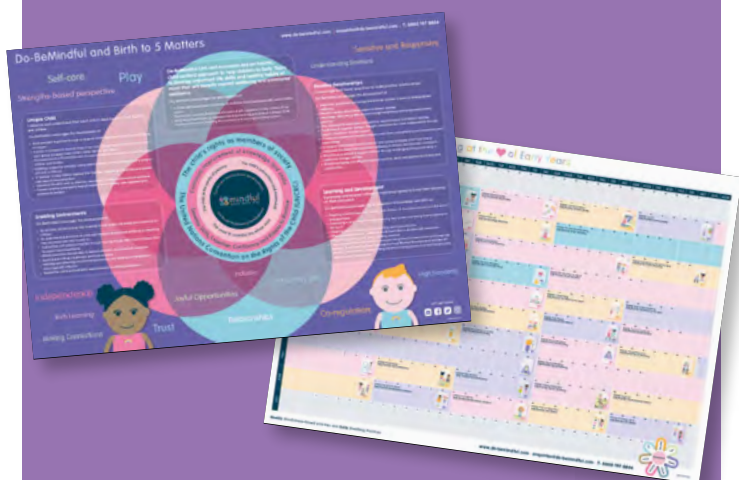
Laura England



Highly commended Do-BeMindful - Little Minds (Do Be Limited)

Available as an app from next year, this resource provides an evidence-based, whole-school approach to nurturing a calm, compassionate and mindful culture through CPD, easy-to-implement wellbeing programmes and a free online training programme for parents/carers.

Visit do-bemindful.com



"The ideas are easy to implement and help young children understand being more mindful"

Laura England

Highly commended Let's Teach Consent in the Early Years (Safeguarding Every Day Ltd)

This resource provides essential knowledge for practitioners to understand the pivotal role they play in teaching early skills of consent and provides practical examples to use in the classroom.

Visit safeguardingeveryday.org



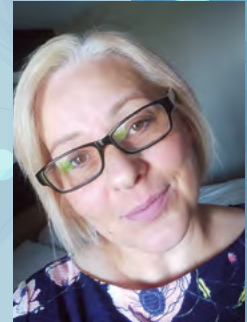
"This is an important topic for all practitioners to understand"

Laura England

Safeguarding Every Day... it's what we do.

Cath Bennett, founder and director of Safeguarding Every Day Ltd (SED) comes from an education and social care background with expertise in the areas of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and specifically the impact of domestic abuse on children.

SED
SAFEGUARDING
EVERY DAY



SED aims to enable education providers' skills and knowledge to teach through a trauma informed approach, allowing children to develop and grow into happy, healthy adults. With a preventative approach as well as essential, reactive responses, there is always a heavy focus on understanding behaviour as communication and recognising indicators to intervene early.

A clear ethos

Consent in itself is not always considered as part of Early Years education, and on surface level be deemed as inappropriate for the age group. However, when we look at the foundations of what consent stands for, it is clear that early education around boundaries, trust, and respect create a starting platform to launch future learning during their educational journey. Teaching the life skill of consent in Early Years is the first step to developing a generation of healthier and trusting relationships in adulthood.

Essential CPD for Early Years professionals

The 'Let's Teach Consent in the Early Years' course was developed to provide an insight for educators on the importance of teaching the early stages of consent, what this looks like in an age-appropriate curriculum, and the potential impact of missed opportunities. Much of what is developed in Early Years paves the way to future learning and future life choices. The course, which we offer to settings and childminders, helps to highlight the importance of early relationship development, the development of key vocabulary and communication as well as emotional literacy.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

As well as training offers, another approach to embedding consistent and effective safeguarding processes is through a safeguarding review of a provision. This two-day process provides opportunity to highlight existing good practice as well as access advice and guidance on developing further.



Reach out to Cath through email, the website or social media.

Alternatively, you can schedule a FREE 30-minute consultation to discuss training or safeguarding reviews at calendly.com/safeguardingeveryday/30min

safeguardingeveryday.org

safeguardingeveryday@gmail.com



THE WINNERS

Creative play

Category finalists

- Story Island (Educational Advantage)
- Eco Loose Parts Den Making Kit (EYR)
- Ruby's Gem Quest: The Soarin' Scissor Skills Game (Learning Resources)

WINNER

XL Polydron Geo Dome (Polydron)

Create a dome, ball or hideaway with XL Polydron Geo Dome. Children and adults can work in tandem to create marvellous models. Explore the basics of geometry with three shapes – squares, triangles and pentagons. Take learning outside and practise construction play in the great outdoors.

The 100% recyclable and BPA free pieces are large and chunky. Visit polydron.co.uk



"This is a unique, creative product and it's good to hear the resource is recyclable"

Cheryl Hadland

Imagineering Wooden Blocks (25Pk) (Cosy Direct)

Begin your outdoor construction provision or extend it even further with this brilliant budget-friendly set of hollow large blocks. A huge variety of different creations are possible without the need for adult support. Visit cosydirect.com



"We've never seen such a big set for such a reasonable price"

Cheryl Hadland

Highly commended Look Inside - Community Vehicles Wooden Play Set (Yellow Door)

This engaging set of eight double-sided FSC-certified wooden vehicles is designed to foster children's understanding of various community vehicles and their roles via the beautiful, detailed illustrations.

Visit yellow-door.net

"Children loved investigating what was inside these vehicles"

Cheryl Hadland



THE WINNERS

Happy & healthy



Category finalists

- 1decision - PSED programme (1decision Ltd)
 - real PE (real PE)
- Let's Roll - Emotions (Yellow Door)

WINNER

Cupful of Feelings Café (Learning Resources)

Explore and engage with feelings through open-ended imaginative play with the Cupful of Feelings Café. Little baristas can make up and 'sip' on an excited expresso or share a lonely latte as they flex their creative thinking and express themselves with this engaging play set that sparks fun and meaningful conversations about comfortable and uncomfortable feelings.

Visit learningresources.co.uk



"This resource has become a favourite. Our cups are definitely filled with joy!"

Jamel C Campbell

Highly commended

50 Fantastic Ideas for Co-Regulation by Kerry Murphy (Bloomsbury Publishing)

This book is meticulously designed to address the developmental needs of young children. It aligns with early childhood education standards and supports practitioners in nurturing children's emotional growth through co-regulation. Visit bloomsbury.com



"The book is written in such a simple and succinct style that anyone can pick up a copy"

Jamel C Campbell

Highly commended

Physical Activity Adventure Pack (Physical Activity Adventure Pack)

The innovative games and activities in this pack provide opportunities for physical development and play and offer both an adult-directed and child-centred approach to learning.

Visit musicandmovement.org.uk



"I love the presentation and different ideas for getting children up and active"

Jamel C Campbell

THE WINNERS

Early exploration

WINNER

CBeebies Musical Storyland (BBC Teach and CBeebies)

Musical Storyland was created by musicians in consultation with Early Years music education experts. It gives children the opportunity to see and hear Western classical instruments and instruments from other traditions. The resources inspire children to join in with the music making and storytelling. The ten classroom videos feature specially composed music performed by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and incredible guest musicians. Visit bbc.co.uk/teach



"The high-quality musical performances offer a great way to support children's musical development in your setting"

Sue Cowley



Category finalists

- 50 Fantastic Ideas for Farm Activities by Hannah Jones McVey (Bloomsbury Publishing)
- Life Cycles Tuff Tray Kit (EYR)
- Maths Masters (Mrs Mactivity)

Highly commended Weather Station (Profile Education Ltd)

This colourful, double-sided resource allows children to observe and measure the environment around them. It includes a wind chart and dials, rain collection gauge, wind sock, thermometer and more. Visit profile-education.co.uk



"With the changing climate a key topic, this is a really valuable addition to your outdoor area"

Sue Cowley

Highly commended Rhombus Mosaic Quartet (Wonder Spaces)

This Fröbel-designed game is ideal for promoting visual perception, concentration and logical thinking activities. It provides an imaginative introduction to basic geometry and symmetry. Visit wonder-spaces.com



"This gets children hands on with making patterns, exploring maths and increasing their visual awareness, as well as developing their art and design skills"

Sue Cowley