







Every child's story starts with early years

Titanic Hotel, Liverpool | Friday 6 June 2025

Welcome to the

2025 NDNA Conference

Every child's story starts with early years

This year I am delighted to introduce you to our new Chief Executive Tim McLachlan who works alongside me in my new role of Executive Chair.

A lot has happened since our last conference – a change of Government; increase in National Insurance Contributions and updates to guidance in England and Wales which has been very difficult to navigate. So it's been the right time to strengthen our management team to enhance the support we can give to our members.

Our conference focuses on each child and their story – how to support and nurture each life with so much promise and hope for the future.

We can't wait to hear from the amazing Professor Dr Ger Graus OBE whose troubled childhood spurred him to be a champion for all children and their rights the world over. We are sure you will have lots of questions to put to the Early Education Minister Stephen Morgan MP.

Our adversity speaker Darren Edwards will inspire you with his powerful determination to achieve despite his life-changing injuries. We will also ask a hand-picked panel to answer your business questions, find out about cutting-edge research into the effect of screens on young children and how to enhance staff well-being in your setting.

Welcome to education and political journalist Matilda Martin who has written extensively about the early years sector and will chair our conference today. We hope you return to your nurseries with new ideas to put into place straight away.

Purnima Tanuku CBE, Executive Chair

Tim McLachlan, NDNA Chief Executive Join in the conversation online! Share your views on social media. Please tag NDNA so we can like and share your posts and use our hashtag

#NDNAConference













How to get the most out of NDNA Conference

We're thrilled that you've chosen to spend your day with us and want to make sure you get the most out of your conference.



Improve your practice

around staff well-being and workplace culture with myHappymind and the impact of device usage on young children's health and development.



Be more informed

about the UK Government's priorities for early education and care with Stephen Morgan MP's session.



Save time and money

with our wide range of exhibitors offering high-quality products and services at discounted prices for your nursery in one place.



Receive expert advice for peace of mind

when visiting our early years helpdesk for advice and support and attending our early years business panel to explore current challenges and solutions.



Have a stronger voice

by sharing your views with Ofsted at their stand and networking with like-minded professionals to build a collective voice.



Support and nurture your staff

Scan to access your virtual practice stream!

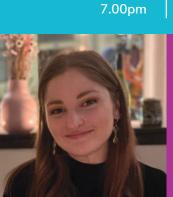
by enabling your practitioners to access your on-demand virtual practice stream sessions around symbols in early years, storytelling, positive mental health in nurseries and music therapy for inclusive

ndna.org.uk/PracticeStreamOnDemand

music-making.

Leadership Stream

8.20am	Registration and exhibition
9.30am	Chair's welcome
9.35am	"Whatever the question, education is always the answer" Professor Dr Ger Graus OBE will cover aspiration from an early age, how community and family provision is essential and how not every classroom has four walls.
10.20am	UK Government's priorities for early education and care Stephen Morgan MP, Minister for Early Education, will give an update on the UK Government's priorities for early education and care.
10.50am	Working together to overcome challenges Purnima Tanuku CBE, NDNA Executive Chair.
11.05am	Exhibition and refreshments
11.50am	Enhancing staff well-being and workplace culture in early years settings Laura Earnshaw will explore practical strategies for nurturing staff well-being in nursery environments.
12.35pm	Exhibition and lunch
1.45pm	Early years business panel Join Courteney Donaldson, Tim Taylor, Andrew Manners, Jonathan Broadbery and Nicola Fleury in our early years business panel. They will cover nursery sustainability issues, including challenging legal agreements, invoicing and nursery software, as well as working with local authorities and their funding requirements.
2.30pm	The impact of mobile device usage on the health and development of young children: What we know Professor Liane Azevedo and Dr Amy Hughes will share insights from exisiting and their own evidence on the effects of mobile devices on young children's health and development.
3.00pm	Exhibition and refreshments
3.45pm	Your chance to get your questions answered by Ofsted Hear a short update from Wendy Ratcliff, Principal Officer for Early Education Policy, and Caroline Hearn, Specialist Adviser at Ofsted. Then you will have your chance to ask them and others from the early years team your questions.
4.15pm	The adaptive mindset: Five pillars to overcome adversity Darren Edwards will share his story of a near-fatal accident and how pracitioners can harness the mindset which allowed him to redefine 'impossible'.
5.00pm	Close



Conference Chair

NDNA Nursery Awards drinks reception

Matilda Martin is a Political Reporter at PoliticsHome with a specialism in education. Before joining PoliticsHome, Matilda was a Senior Reporter at Tes (Times Educational Supplement) magazine.

She has written many early years features, covering NDNA's research and is familiar with the sector's challenges.



Your speakers - Leadership Stream



Professor Dr Ger Graus OBE is a renowned figure in the field of education across the globe. Ger champions the cause of equity, progress, purpose, creativity and innovation in children's learning.



Purnima Tanuku CBE, supported by the Board of Trustees, leads the strategic direction of NDNA as Executive Chair. She represents the sector to Government ministers, parliamentarians, civil servants and local authorities.



Laura Earnshaw is the founder and CEO of myHappymind, an organisation committed to delivering preventative mental health education to children, parents and teachers across nurseries, schools and homes.



Stephen Morgan MP is the Minister for Early Education and MP for Portsmouth South. He has worked in local government and was the CEO of a charity supporting rough sleepers, carers and young people.



Professor Liane Azevedo has conducted many studies on the movement behaviour of children and young people. She is especially interested in how using interactive electronic devices can affect children's long-term health and development.



Dr Amy Hughes is the Trial Manager of the iKids study, which aims to understand how tablets and smartphones affect the development of young children.



Wendy Ratcliff is one of His Majesty's Inspectors and Principal Officer for Early Education Policy at Ofsted. She has extensive experience of inspection and regulation. Her role is focused on Ofsted's 'Best start in life' strategic priority and the inspection of early education curriculum.



Caroline Hearn is a Specialist Adviser for Ofsted's early years regulatory policy. She works closely with the department for education on early years policy development and has 25 years' experience of inspecting early years provision.



Darren Edwards is a qualified teacher and is one of the world's leading Adaptive Adventurers and has broken barriers across the globe.













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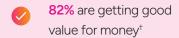


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Our exhibitors



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The NDNA exhibition



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Visit www.judgesdemand.co.uk or call 0151 329 2138.



Millie's Mark and National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)

Millie's Mark is the gold standard in paediatric first aid for early years.

NDNA is the national charity supporting day nurseries - we are dedicated to making a difference.



Visit www.ndna.org.uk or email info@ndna.org.uk



NDNA PANCo



PANCo is NDNA's specialist qualification that empowers early years practitioners to lead positive change, placing children's health and well-being at the heart of practice through a strong focus on physical activity and nutrition.

Visit www.ndna.org.uk/PANCo or call 01484 407070.



Nuuri

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Visit www.nuuri.co.uk or call 07791 180533.



Ofsted

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. We inspect services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. We also inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people.

Visit www.gov.uk/ofsted

The NDNA exhibition



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Petit Wagon

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Stephensons Solicitors LLP

Stephensons solicitors has many years of experience of supporting childcare, early years and education providers across a range of legal services, including specialist regulatory, employment and commercial advice. Stephensons offers a valuable pool of knowledge and resources all in one place and our experience means that we understand the current issues impacting providers.

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www.qualitycounts.org.uk

*Available to NDNA members from 6 June to 30 June 2025.













We hope you have a fantastic day engaging with our speakers, visiting our exhibition and learning from your early years peers.

At NDNA we don't just provide nursery membership, lobby government and offer training, we are dedicated to making a difference.

Please fill in our feedback forms and let us know your thoughts before you leave.

