

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

W. C. C. F. Conference Centre,
3198 East Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5K 2L1
Monday 15 April 2024 (9am-5pm)

<https://tinyurl.com/Man-for-all-reasons>

A MAN FOR ALL REASONS

MiC

Men in Childcare



9.00 **Registration and Coffee**

9.30 **Welcome to the Conference**

Senator Margo Greenwood - British Columbia, Canada / Ron Blatz - Canada

9.40 **A Few Good Men**

Ron Blatz, Former Director Discovery Children's Centre /
Quincy McIntyre-Brandt, Discovery Children's Centre - Manitoba, Canada

10.20 **A Beautiful Mind**

Senator Margo Greenwood, British Columbia, Canada /
Professor Karen Graham, Professor of Childhood and Family Studies - Wrexham Wales

11.00 **Coffee Time**

11.20 **Groundhog Day**

David Wright, Founder Paint Pots Nursery Group - Southampton, England

12.00 **Against All Odds**

Bryan Nelson, Founder Men Teach - Minnesota, USA

12.40 **Lunch Time**

1.40 **Who Dares Wins**

Kenny Spence, Founder Men in Childcare - Edinburgh, Scotland

2.20 **It's a Wonderful Life**

Jerry Parr, Founder Willow Tree Team - Texas USA
Peter Graham, Advisor and Consultant, Early Years - Wrexham Wales

3.00 **Plenary Future Planning**

Where do we go from here



CONFERENCE BIOGS

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Kenny Spence



Kenny Spence is an internationally acknowledged Educator and Presenter. He has pioneered innovative approaches to support men to realize the importance of their involvement in children's lives. This workshop builds on best practice and research

internationally and promotes the importance of fatherhood in children's lives.

Kenny has been invited by Education Ministries in New Zealand, the Czech Republic and Dubai to be the keynote speaker at their national conferences, both on Men in Early Years and his work with fathers. He has also spoken in Malaysia, Hawaii, California, Belgium, Holland, Norway, the Republic of Ireland and throughout the UK.

He has been called upon for advice from numerous research students on the issue of Men in Early Years, he has also given advice to the research and information sought on the issue to the UK government, the Scottish Government and The Canadian Provisional Government of British Columbia.

Kenny Spence, is a member of the World Forum Leadership Team of the Working Group on Men in Early Childhood.

The Working Group on Men in Early Childhood Education (MECE) provides a global meeting place for male and female early childhood professionals to reflect on the value of gender balance in early childhood education and the benefits of and barriers to men's full participation, and to identify actions to promote these important issues worldwide.

Men in Childcare were the founders of a Men in Childcare European Network which has representatives from Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, Czech Republic, England and Scotland. This Network meets regularly to share best practice.

David Wright



David Wright is the former owner of Paint Pots Nurseries, an award winning group of 10 daycare settings based in Southampton in the south of England, providing care for nearly 1,000 children each week. David and his wife Anna have over 30 years' experience of ECE.

Amongst his many roles, David acts as an advisor to the UK Government Department of Education and the National Association of Headteachers. He is an ECE ambassador, author, broadcaster, commentator, presenter, consultant, TEDx speaker, trainer and editorial board member. David is better known on social media as @Mr_Paintpots. In 2022, he was the recipient of a national lifetime achievement award from Nursery World magazine. He also received a city of Southampton award from the mayor in recognition of services to ECE.

I didn't state what my workshop would be on - happy to go with suggestions but it will be based on my experiences / research, including from my book Men in Early Years Settings, around ARRD - Attract, Recruit, Retain, Develop.

Bryan Nelson



Bryan G. Nelson has worked with young children, men, fathers and families since the 1980s. He is founding director of MenTeach.org and serves as faculty at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota. He is also a consultant to the World Forum's Men in Early

Childhood Education program - worldforumfoundation.org/

Bryan has appeared on the Canadian Broadcast Corporation, ABC Good Morning America, BBC, Today Show, CNN, NBC Nightly News, PBS - A Place of Our Own and is quoted in print and online national media. He has written and presented about men in the lives of children both nationally and internationally. He has received various awards including a Leadership Fellowship to attend graduate school at Harvard University to research men, fathers and children and in 2015 he was named Exceptional Leader in Education and 2020 Sage Award at Optum Health - a Fortune 5 company.

He currently serves on the non-profit boards of Parents In Community Action - Head Start and Dr. Bakare Sickle Cell Foundation, is an advisor to <http://wicoienandagikendan.org/> an early education language immersion program for Native Americans, and Bright Horizon's Education Advisory Board. He is currently lead consultant to the California State University system for recruitment and retention of minority men in education. He is married and parent of two daughters.

For additional information and publications visit: www.bgnelson.com

Jerry Parr



Jerry Parr is owner and founder of Willow Tree Early Education Team, a global consulting company dedicated to current issues in early childhood education. He has a long and valued history with Head Start and Early Head Start, including serving as an Executive

Director of Early Childhood at the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Mr. Parr is internationally recognized for his efforts to develop global policy that will encourage the support of increasing the number of males in caregiver and teacher roles in an effort to achieve more equitable gender balance and ensure each child's right to have both men and women in his/her classroom and life. His company partners with organizations around the world that are innovating in the areas of self-sustaining educational programs, inclusion, and program excellence.

Karen Graham



Karen Graham is an Emeritus Professor of Childhood and Family Studies and Work-Based Learning living and working in the UK. She is a sector consultant working nationally and internationally with numerous agencies and partners.

Karen has experience in leading award winning early years day-care and education, teaching and advisory work in schools, research, higher education and national qualification reform. She has led national reviews of ECEC provision, has been a regular contributor to Welsh Government Boards and has recently Chaired the Welsh Govt Parenting Expert Advisory Group and the development of the first Early Childhood Play, Learning and Care Quality Framework for Wales.

Karen has been the recipient of a number of personal awards for her contributions to research and to sector development. She is a founding member of the World Forum Foundation Children's Rights Group, is the World Forum Foundation National Representative for Wales, UK and is founder of the Action for Impact Network.

Karen's workshop:

For the presentation, Kenny will be doing the importance of men to children and I wondered whether, if I spoke before him, I could offer a complementary feminist perspective on the importance of men in childhood. I think it could work. This could very briefly reference the place of women in the family caring role and the traditional early parenting role and how this changes as children become preteens and teens. I could go on to talk about changes in society and then focus on how this is impacting on boys and men generally narrowing down to talk about under representation of men in the sector and perceptions of men who are in the sector. I could finish on what we might do to address this inequity both strategically and at frontline.

Peter Graham



Peter is from the UK and is a highly experienced educator, early years' professional and manager. He is a proud father of two grown up children and is now enjoying the role of grandfather to two granddaughters.

With a rich and diverse background in education and care, Peter brings a range of expertise to his work. His expertise was developed as a teacher in a number of schools and eventually as an educational leader. His leadership roles included recruitment and retention of staff, curriculum development, quality assurance, and marketing. Over the years, Peter has developed skills in change management through his involvement in the merger of two schools and through setting up and developing early years' centres.

Following his role as a headteacher, Peter became an accredited Inspector of schools and early years' settings in both the public and private sectors.

Utilising his early years' expertise, alongside inspection roles, Peter established multi-award-winning daycare provision across 4 sites in the UK. During this period he also worked as a Quality Assurance assessor for a major national quality assurance scheme. He has since worked as an advisor and consultant in the early years' sector.

Ron Blatz



Ron has spent 43 year's in as manager of one of Canada's most unique community owned Centres, situated in central Winnipeg. Using strategies he learned from some of his international colleagues he increased the male staff complement from 1 male to 14

male staff over the course of his career.

Ron will share about some of the challenges faced, benefits experienced and strategies used to attract male

staff into his Centre. It can be done! Ron is also one of the founding members of the "Working Group" on Men in Early Childhood Education (MECE) that operates under the banner of the World Forum on Early Care and Education.

Senator Margo Greenwood



Dr. Margo Greenwood is an internationally recognized and highly respected Indigenous scholar of Cree ancestry. She is a researcher, author, mother to three sons, and grandmother to one granddaughter. Dr. Greenwood grew up in Ponoka, Alberta and has

lived the majority of her adult life in Vernon, British Columbia.

From a young age, Senator Greenwood credits calling on the power of dreaming to overcome challenges in her life journey. Personally and professionally, her dream-and vision-of bettering the lives of children, families, and communities has evolved over the years. Senator Greenwood is particularly recognized for her commitment to the health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children. While she has travelled around the world, contributing to policy and program development to improve the lives of Indigenous children and youth, she has made Western Canada her home and represents British Columbia as an Independent Senator. In this capacity, she is deeply committed to promoting and ensuring the continued well-being of all children and families in Canada.

Internationally, Senator Greenwood has worked with UNICEF, the United Nations, the World Forum Foundation, and the Canadian Reference Group to the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Nationally, she has served on

the National Public Health Expert Advisory Committee for the Assembly of First Nations, the Canadian Council on Social Determinants of Health, the Indigenous Health Advisory Committee for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Public Health Network of Canada. She also participated in the development of three federal early childhood programs: the First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative, the Aboriginal Head Start Urban and Northern Program, and the First Nations Head Start On Reserve Program. She also recently co-authored the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework. Provincially, Senator Greenwood serves on the Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia and is a Council Member of the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council. She was also a founding member of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, where she served as the inaugural Vice President for 10 years.

Quincy McIntyre-Brandt

Quincy has worked for 8 years as an early learning practitioner. After completing his degree in International Development and Conflict Resolution and working in community development, he was drawn to working in early education by recruitment strategies targeting men, and eventually pursued Early Childhood Education at RRC Polytech. Quincy currently co-facilitates the Forest School program at Discovery Children's Centre, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he was first attracted to the field. He is passionate about outdoor education and risky play, emphasizing a respectful approach with children and integrating his background in Conflict Resolution. Quincy helps to coordinate the Men in Early Childhood Education (MECE) group in Manitoba, a peer-led group that creates opportunities for male educators to collaborate, dialogue and support one another, and has recently joined the working group for Men in Early Childhood Education of the World Forum.

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