



Association for Professional
Development in Early Years

TACTYC Conference 2023

Saturday 14th October, 10:30am - 4pm



Leonardo Royal Hotel, 245 Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2HQ

Flipping the Narrative: Child Led Literacies

Not Racing to Read

Our 2023 one-day conference in the Leonardo Royal Hotel in Birmingham brings together leaders, speakers and early childhood colleagues to dialogue about innovative approaches to child-led literacies to challenge dominant views of children's learning.

TACTYC presents this special conference for all those working in early childhood education and care, including **practitioners, advisors, EYs leaders, advocates, students and academics**. The TACTYC 2023 Conference will focus on **'Flipping the Narratives: Child-led Literacies - Not Racing to Read'**. Delegates will gain fresh perspectives, critique existing positions and, will be able to create and contribute to dialogues on challenges and opportunities relating to approaches to children's literacies in the current debate.

Register for the 2023 TACTYC Conference [here](#)

Key note speakers

Key note 1: Dr Karen Boardman

"Literacy - a diverse perspective"



Dr Karen Boardman is the Head of Early Years Education at Edge Hill University and is passionate about 'all things' Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), particularly literacy, early reading and working with under-threes. Karen is a strong advocate for babies and under-threes. Her research interests are literacy, early reading, policy and pedagogy and under-threes. Karen is also interested in child development, play and inclusion. Karen has been working in the ECEC field for 40 years as a practitioner/teacher/researcher, initially as an NNEB in nursery settings. Later in a wide range of schools/settings as a teacher/Senior Leader. Dr Boardman is the Chair of TACTYC and a member of BERA and EECERA. She is also a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching, a board member of the new Early Years Hub and, a Senior Fellow of the HEA. Karen has presented at many international conferences on the subject of 'early reading with under-threes'. As the Chair of TACTYC and other international organisations, Karen leads advocacy for the field of ECEC and beyond.

Keynote Brief: Literacy learning (communication, speaking, listening, reading, and writing) for very young children is diverse, responsive, and meaningful, requiring all practitioners/educators to be aware of the literacy possibilities in the everyday worlds of young children. Whilst we carefully consider the opportunities provided within care routines and playful pedagogies, balancing the discussions around adult-led and child-led learning, it is easy to lose the focus of the joy of literacy learning. For very young children, literacy is not just about learning to read and write or focused on those who struggle with reading and writing in the race to read culture in England. Our early literacy experiences shape all our interactions and as such, impact on the moral, cultural, and social structure of families, communities, and everyday lives of very young children. Karen invites us all to rethink literacy learning for rising fives, sharing the findings of her 5-year research project.

Key note 2: Dr Karen Vincent

"Supporting Early Literacies through Play"



Dr Karen Vincent is a Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Education at Canterbury Christ Church University. Her experience as a teacher in a variety of school settings with a particular interest in the earliest years of learning, has led to her practice-based pedagogical research interests.

Karen's most recent publication is Supporting Early Literacies through Play, which was co-written with Dr Kate Smith. She is secretary of the England branch of the International Professional Development Association, a member of TACTYC and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Keynote Brief: Play offers multiple opportunities for adults and children to explore materials, symbols and the purpose of literacies in expansive ways, yet it is under pressure to 'perform', particularly in English classrooms (TACTYC, 2017). Tensions exist between the formal teaching of literacy knowledge and a child's right to play. These tensions must be challenged. This talk celebrates the ways in which young children can build their knowledge of the multitude of literacies, thereby developing a love for literacy, learning through play. It considers the role of the adult in fostering a love for literacy learning and as an advocate for expanding, rather than narrowing, the literacies that we offer young children in educational settings.



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Day Conference: Members £45 Non-Members £60

2023 Conference Programme

10:30 - 11:00	Registration, coffee and pastries
11:00 - 11:10	Welcome, housekeeping and introduction
11:10 - 11:55	Key note 1: Karen Boardman
11:55 - 12:15	Q&A discussion and round table networking
12:15 - 12:30	Comfort break
12:30 - 13:30	Breakout sessions
13:30 - 14:00	Lunch and round table networking
14:00 - 14:10	Welcome back and introduction
14:10 - 14:55	Key note 2: Karen Vincent Q&A discussion and table networking
15:15 - 15:30	Comfort break
15:30 - 15:35	Student reflection award
15:35 - 15:45	Closing thoughts
15:45 - 16:15	AGM (members only- new members welcome)

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TACTYC Membership

Join TACTYC:

Annual Membership £45

£45 full membership

£0 (free) student membership

£30 unwaged membership

£100 institutional membership (not for Universities)

Membership link – Click [here](#)

TACTYC 2023 Call for Papers: Discussion Forum Items, Research Briefings and Posters

TACTYC are delighted to announce a call for papers for our 2023 conference which will be held face-to-face on the **14th of October in Birmingham**.

Proposals should align with the conference themes i) Child led literacy vs racing to read and write ii) Professionalism and professional development iii) Sustainability.

We would like to invite proposals for each of the following categories:

Discussion Forum Items offer opportunities for colleagues to bring for conference consideration noteworthy issues related to one of our Conference Themes. They are 15-minute informal sessions, with question time added at the end.

Research Briefings provide an opportunity for action researchers to share their studies and key findings. They are 15-minute presentations with five minutes allowed for questions at the end.

Poster Presentations will form part of the Conference Marketplace. They will be posted throughout the conference day. Posters will focus on one of our Conference themes, through the lens of research or practice. Your presentation should comprise an introduction to the issue for consideration, brief points regarding the issue and questions for consideration.

Deadline: Friday 31st August 2023 by 9pm.

Please direct questions to Tactyc.org@gmail.com

If you would like your contribution to research or practice to be considered, please submit an outline (150-300 words) using the 'Research Briefing Form' ([available here](#)) by e-mail to Tactyc.org@gmail.com

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