

Childminding Babies Conference

West Offices, York
November 7, 2026



childmindingbabies.blog



Middlesex
University
London

Welcome

About the day

'Childminding Babies' is a conference dedicated to childminders and childminder assistants working with children aged 0-2 years old.

We are looking forward to an inspiring day with incredible speakers, engaging workshops and networking with early years professionals from across York.

About the research

This conference is part of the research project, 'Achieving high-quality provision for babies among childminders in England', funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

We will be exploring questions around baby provision in childminding, including:

- What does great practice with babies in childminding provision look and feel like?
- What challenges do childminders face in delivering high-quality baby provision?
- What support do childminders need to offer the best provision to babies?

Making your voice heard

By attending this conference, you'll be sharing your perspectives and expertise around the future of quality provision for babies. To learn more, visit

<https://childmindingbabies.blog/>

Plan for the day

-  9.30 am: Registration and refreshments
-  10.00 am: Keynote
-  10.30 am: Focus group
-  11.15 am: Coffee and tea
-  11.30 am: Workshop
-  1.00 pm: Lunch

Workshop information

About Debbie Brace



Debbie Brace, founder of Baby Talk and Play, is a specialist trainer in the early language development and behaviour of babies and young children. She works directly with families and early years practitioners. Before establishing Baby Talk and Play, Debbie worked as a childminder,

giving her extensive practical experience of supporting young children's development. Debbie also sits on the executive committee of the Association of Infant Mental Health UK.



About the workshop

Debbie's interactive workshop will explore the power of songs, rhymes and poems in supporting babies' early language development. Through playful participation, childminders will have the opportunity to try out ideas and reflect on how song, rhyme and chant can be woven into everyday routines. Participants will leave feeling energised and inspired, and you'll have a deeper understanding of how to nurture early communication through joyful, responsive practice.

Meet the research team



Dr Mona Sakr is an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at Middlesex University. You can contact her at m.sakr@mdx.ac.uk.



Dr Sara Bonetti is an independent researcher specialising in early childhood education practice and policy. You can contact her at sarabonetti77@gmail.com.



Kayla Halls is a Research Fellow at Middlesex University. She specialises in early childhood studies. You can contact her at k.halls@mdx.ac.uk.

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