



# Positive Futures for Deaf Children: Optimising Outcomes

As many BATOD readers will now be aware, the plans for the 2017 International Conference in Deaf Education are now well under way with a range of exciting speakers confirmed. This is a rare opportunity which provides access to some of the key research in deaf education. It means all Teachers of the Deaf who attend can hear the latest research and its implications for practice in the exciting and changing world of deaf education.

**We are delighted to be able to now update you with some of the details:**

- **confirmed speakers**
- **registration contacts**
- **how to submit a paper/poster**

Manchester conference centre is 5 minutes' walk from Piccadilly station, which provides rail links to the airport and across the country. Accommodation is offered at the conference centre and across Manchester in a range of possibilities to suit all budgets.

There will be a **conference party with dinner**, welcome fizz and a shot, trivia and a disco on Friday night, **free to all BATOD members** and **only £35 for non-BATOD attendees**.

This is a chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

**Conference dates: Friday 10th March and Saturday 11th March 2017**

# Confirmed Speakers:



**Dr. Connie Mayer, Ed.D., OCT:**  
Associate Professor, York University,  
Toronto

## **Myths, Mantras and Misunderstandings: Moving Forward in Optimizing Literacy Outcomes for Deaf Students**

The literacy outcomes of deaf students have been a focus of concern for more than a hundred years since Pintner and

Patterson reported that deaf teenagers read at the level of 7-year-old hearing children. It is timely that in 2017 we revisit some of the underlying understandings (and misunderstandings) that have underpinned the discussion to date, and consider a model for moving forward that is evidence-based, takes into account the access afforded by advances in hearing technologies, and optimizes the opportunities for literacy learning for deaf students.



**Professor Barry Wright**  
Clinical Lead of the Deaf Children, Young People and Family Service (National Deaf CAMHS)  
Leeds and York Partnership Foundations NHS Trust and Hull York Medical School

## **Mental health and deafness**

Deaf children and young people experience the world in different ways from hearing children and young people for a range of different reasons. There are many different ways in which family, communication and educational experiences vary for deaf children and often present a range of challenges. Some deaf children may have physical illness. These and other things may affect the developmental trajectory of any child, including possible differences in social and emotional learning, with some experiencing mental health problems such as anxiety. Barry will discuss some of these issues and influences.



**Dr Terezinha Nunes**  
Department of Education,  
University of Oxford

## **Teaching to deaf children's strengths**

Child psychologists are in agreement that the origins of intelligence precede language development and form the basis for learning language, yet relatively little attention has been given to the use of observational learning and practical thinking in the education of deaf children. This presentation will focus on children's observational learning and their ability to develop problem solving skills through guided activity. Real examples of how deaf children's visual and practical skills can be employed to enhance their working memory and mathematical problem solving will be offered.



**Dr. Tonya Bergeson-Dana**

## **Let's play! The role of play in early language experience and cognitive development in children with hearing impairment.**

30 million words. Grit. Growth mindset, not fixed mindset. Executive function. These are all important factors that

are shaping the modern world of child development. This talk will focus on the importance of play in the early communicative interactions between caregivers and children with hearing impairment, the different types of playful interactions, and the roles they might serve in developing the fundamental skills necessary for optimizing outcomes.



### **Dianne Goberis**

Teacher of the Deaf for more than 35 years in Denver, Colorado.

### **Pragmatic Language Development in Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

This presentation will share a tool, the Pragmatics Checklist, used to assess a child's pragmatic use of language, along with a quick overview of the research on pragmatic language development from Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano et al. Some strategies that professionals can use to foster the development of pragmatic language in young deaf or hard of hearing children will be shared as well.



### **Helen Chilton**

Lecturer in Deaf Education at the University of Manchester. MA Deaf Education

### **Lenses on Theory of Mind (ToM): points of focus**

This presentation will consider ToM as a multidimensional concept. In considering the aspects of ToM we are able to understand its developmental programme and support emerging skills. It is possible to consider ToM through a number of lenses. For example, recent UoM research considers a parental measure of ToM, the links between ToM and literacy and will explore the potential for practice to progress in the UK.

## **Confirmed Workshops:**



### **Danny Lane, Music and the Deaf**

Danny Lane was born in Yorkshire and has been profoundly deaf since birth. He is a pianist, having gained his ABRSM Grade 8 whilst still at school. In 1998 Danny was accepted at Keele University to read Music and French

and has studied at the Université d'Amiens in France. Danny is currently the Artistic Director of Music and the Deaf, the UK's only charity entirely dedicated to providing access and opportunities in music, having taken over from founder Dr Paul Whittaker OBE in 2012. Under Danny's leadership, the charity has continued to build a national and international reputation for pushing the boundaries of what deaf musicians can aspire to and achieve.

### **FM working group**

A hands on practical session promoting connectivity, best practice and the new Radio Aids Quality Standards



## Call for Papers

Submissions for oral presentation (20 minutes long) OR posters are invited addressing innovation, research or best practice in any of the conference themes:

- Supporting development in literacy and numeracy
- Promoting positive mental health and well-being
- Maximising innovation in technology

Please submit abstracts/proposals to:  
[wendy.mccracken@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.mccracken@manchester.ac.uk)

If you would like to submit a proposal please follow this link:

[The Association >> BATOD Conferences >> National Conference 2017](#)  
and follow the instructions provided

## How to Register

For further information and to register please visit:

[www.earfoundation.org.uk/education/articles/833](http://www.earfoundation.org.uk/education/articles/833)

Early Bird Registration fee  
[up to 1 December 2016]    £195.00

Registration fee    £245.00

*Conference fees held at 2009 prices*

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