

# Conference agenda

9:30 AM-  
10:00 AM

## Arrival

Tea, coffee and networking  
Online attendees: can join early, say hello in the chat, and get comfortable!



10:00 AM-  
10:10 AM

## Welcome

Tabitha Witherick- Macaulay Chief Executive, Libraries Rising

10:10 AM-  
10:15 AM

## Introducing BookingsPlus

10:15AM-  
11:15 AM

## Inclusive practice in early years libraries: Interactive workshop

Alison Heseltine and Louise Campbell White,  
Early Years Alliance

11:15 AM-  
11:35AM

## Break: Cake and conversation

Online attendees can join a shared virtual whiteboard space to network, share ideas and connect with others.



11:35 AM-  
1:05 PM

## Listening to the voice of the baby: Interactive workshop

Amy Gibson, Starcatchers

1:05 PM-  
1:45 PM

## Lunch and meeting exhibitors

1:45 PM-  
2:15 PM

## Defining mental health and wellbeing in early years

Guest speaker: Dr Alice Haynes, Anna Freud

2:15 PM-  
2:55 PM

## Anti-racist practice in the early years

Guest speaker: Shaddai Tembo

2:55 PM-  
3:10 PM

## Break: Cake and conversation

Online attendees can join a shared virtual whiteboard space to network, share ideas and connect with others.

3:10 PM-  
3:50 PM

## The future of early years : Collaborative workshop

Mark Rooney, Deputy Director, Best Start Family Policy, Department of Education

3:50PM-  
4:00 PM

## Reflections and close

Tabitha Witherick- Macaulay Chief Executive, Libraries Rising



# Conference agenda



**Inclusive practice in Early Years libraries:** Explore what inclusive practice looks like in library settings, from sensory-friendly spaces and supporting children with SEND to representing diverse cultures, identities and families. You'll gain practical ideas that can make a real difference to how children and families experience the library. Led by Alison Heseltine, Early Years Development Manager for the Early Years Alliance and Louise Campbell White, Early Years Development Officer for the Early Years Alliance.

**Listening to the voice of the baby:** Starcatchers Amy Gibson will lead a practical, creative 1.5 hour session exploring Voice of the baby. This session will be creative and hands-on exploring Starcatchers' Voice of the Baby approach, including engagement signals and schematic play. Discover how creative experiences can help us better understand babies' communication and perspectives.



**Early childhood mental health:** Dr Alice Haynes is Head of Implementation in Anna Freud's Clinical division. She has over 10 years' experience of working in perinatal and early years research, policy and practice, including roles at the NSPCC and as national development manager for the National Lottery Community Fund's strategic programme, A Better Start. She will explore the factors that shape early wellbeing, the support available for families, and the important role library staff can play in supporting parents and carers.

**Anti-racist practice in the Early Years:** Dr Shaddai Tembo is a Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Studies at Bath Spa University and an independent speaker with Critical Early Years. During his session, he will share insight into anti-racist practice when working with young children, with space for reflection and discussion. Drawing on his work in early childhood studies, he'll explore how anti-racist thinking can shape everyday practice and share practical ideas you can apply in your own library setting.



**The future of early years:** Marc Rooney, Deputy Director, Best Start Family Policy, Department of Education, will open by sharing the wider direction of early years support and what it means for libraries and those working with children and families. Children's North East will offer perspectives about designing library services with poverty-proofing in mind. Throughout, you'll take part in a collaborative conversation about the future of early years, sharing ideas and learning from each other.