



# DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

## WELCOME

To our first newsletter outlining some of the research that the Department for Children and Families at the University of Worcester have been involved in over the last few months. Here we include news about publications, presentations and other research related activity.

## CURRENT FUNDED RESEARCH

Rosie Walker and Alison Prowle are helping Blaenau Gwent to investigate their Unified Disability Service



We are delighted to have taken on a **PhD research student, Emma Bailey**. Emma has studied with us from day one, completing her BA in Early childhood and also her MA in Education. We are delighted to welcome Emma on to the Children and Families team to continue the work started by Carla Solvason into **Leadership Collaborations**.

## PRESENTATIONS

- Michelle Malomo and Sarah Pittaway (2020): So you want me to read for my Degree ? - a Universal Design for Learning approach to reading. In: Talis Insight Webinars 2020 (Europe), 29/04/20, Online and UKSG conference Webinar (Europe), 17/06/2020, Online.
- Dr Carla Solvason and Dr Rebecca Webb (University of Sussex) "You always listen, you never don't hear" Listening to Maintained Nursery School Leaders and Practitioners. TACTYC Conference, [June 2020](#), Online.

## OTHER RESEARCH

- The Impact of the Independent Study on EY Settings (NW and CS)
- Professionals' experience of working within an interdisciplinary team around the child (CS with TAC and Dr Jo Winwood from Wolverhampton Uni).
- Homeschooling during lockdown: the impact on parent – child relationships and The role of motivation in teacher retention (TW with School of Ed colleagues).



HOT OFF THE PRESS...

# Our Recent Publications

Hazel Richards had two practitioner-aimed articles published: Support for SENCOs, SEN (108), pp 74-75 and 'Knowing them best', EYE 22(3), pp 31-33.

Nicola Watson has a series of four articles in Early Years Educator on EYFS reforms (changes to ELGs):

- Prime areas: October 2020 Identifying Opportunities. Early Years Educator, 22 (3). pp. 21-23.
- Specific areas: November 2020: Keeping it Simple. Early Years Educator, 22 (4). pp. 21-23.
- Literacy : December 2020: What Happens Next? Early Years Educator, 22 (5). pp. 22-24.
- Creativity: Due January 2021 Early Years Educator, 22 (6).

Michelle Malomo and Sarah Pittaway (2019) So, You Want me to Read for my Degree? Considering a Universal Design for Learning Approach to Reading Through the Use of Audiobooks and Accessibility Tools. JISC Accessible Organisations: Supporting learning providers in creating inclusive teaching and learning experiences.

Carla Solvason, Rebecca Webb and Samantha Sutton-Tsang (2020) What is left...?: The Implications of Losing Maintained Nursery Schools for Vulnerable Children and Families in England, Children and Society, <https://authorservices.wiley.com/api/pdf/fullArticle/16752045>

Johanna Cliffe and Carla Solvason (2020) The role of emotions in building new knowledge and developing young children's understanding. Power and Education. 2020;12(2):189-203. doi:10.1177/1757743820930724

Carla Solvason and Alison Kington (2020) How subject leader collaborations across schools can act as a source of personal and curriculum development, Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue, Volume 22, Numbers 1 & 2, 2020 <https://www.infoagepub.com/products/Curriculum-and-Teaching-Dialogue-Vol-22>



# Coming up...

We have research ideas brewing such as those below:

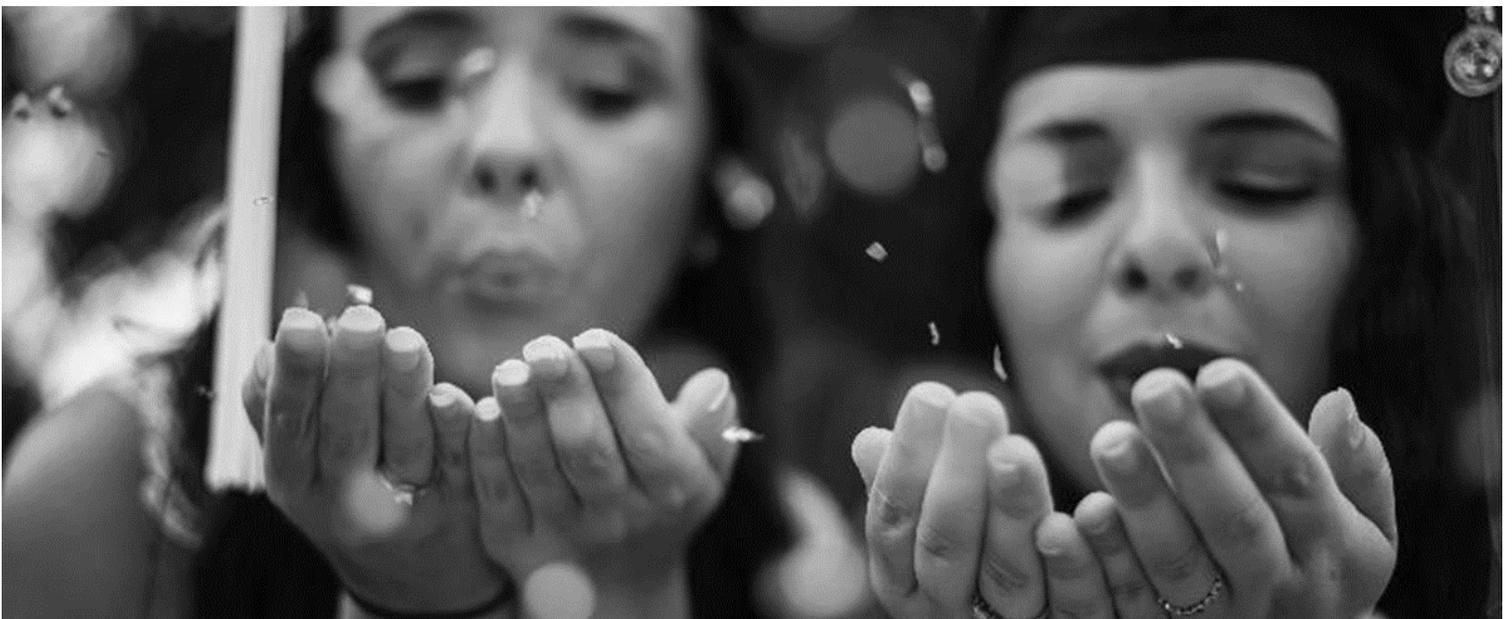
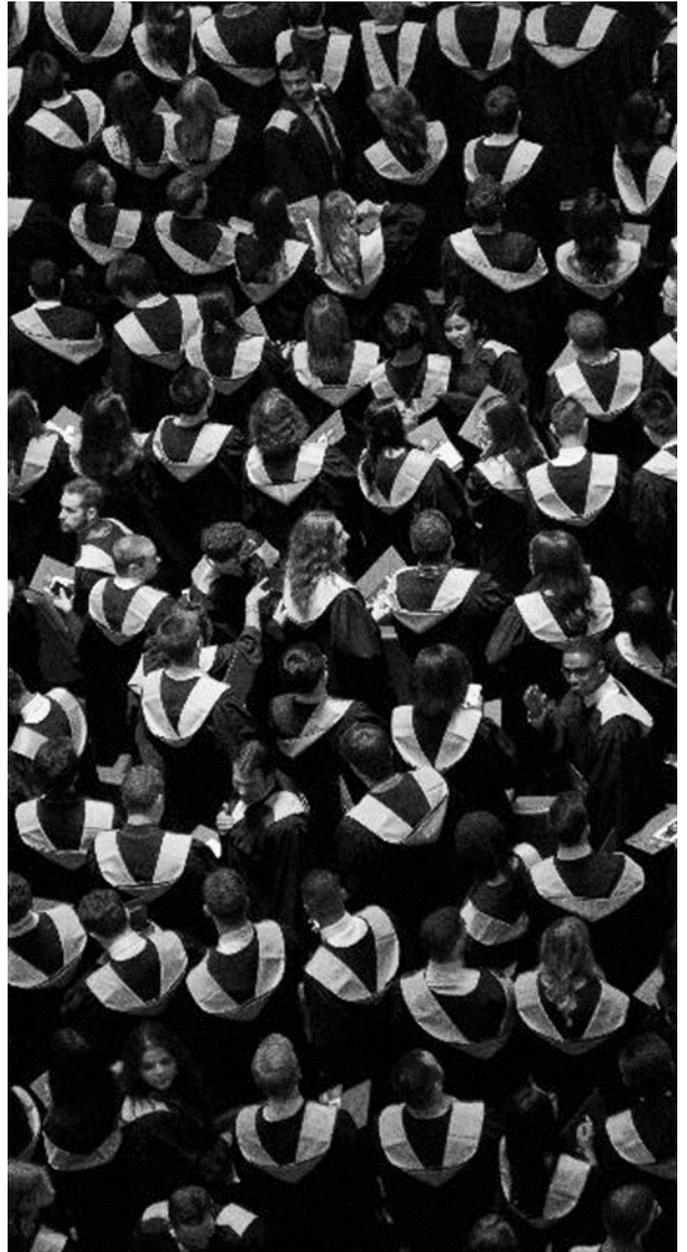
- Hazel Richards has ethical approval to conduct Talking Mats/securing voice research
- Angela Hodgkins will begin the primary research for her PhD in Feb 2021, she is exploring EY practitioners' experiences of empathic interactions within their role
- Alison Prowle and Nicola Stobbs are investigating ways to use research with kinship children/ young people to inform some child and family facing publications.

## What about you?

Do you have some research ideas that you would like support with?

If so, please contact Dr Carla Solvason at:

[c.solvason@worc.ac.uk](mailto:c.solvason@worc.ac.uk)



## DCF 2021 Conference: 'Signs of Spring: What's awakening in our sector?'

w/c Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### Invitation to present...and keep the date in your diary

This year's conference will have a positive focus on what our sectors (health, welfare, education, social work, charity) and professionals have done well over the past year.



**We would like to invite you to present 3 reasons to be optimistic in your sector and/or professional practice. What potential, possibilities or opportunities could the workforce see or experience?**

Guest speakers are asked to either record a video, audio file, podcast conversation between two people or powerpoint presentation with voice over. Recordings and presentations should last 10-20 minutes.

Please email to Simone (<mailto:s.acton@worc.ac.uk>) your proposed title for your presentation and 3 key points by **11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

We hope to receive a range of presentations from various sectors and professionals to reflect the varied expertise of our centre. The presentations will be shared with students studying within the Department for Children and Families: Early Years, Professional Practice, Integrated Working with Children and Families, Collaborative work with children, Young People and Families, Leading Culture Change in Safeguarding and Early Years Practice. And, of course, you are all invited as guests if you are not able to present. We will send more details nearer the time.