

## Dr Malene Karlsson

**Biography:** Dr Malene Karlsson was one of the founders of IFDCO and one of the organisers of the world-conference in Uppsala, Sweden 1993. She has worked with family day care since 1976, as a coordinator, teacher and researcher and has published several books and articles. She wrote a report on family day care in Europe for the European Commission in 1994 that has been published in six languages. She coordinates an international network for family day care researchers.

## Guy Claxton

**Biography:** Since September 2008, Guy Claxton has been Co-Director of the Centre for Real-World Learning (CrL), and Professor of the Learning Sciences, at the University of Winchester (see [News](#)). He previously held the same title at the University of Bristol Graduate School of Education. He has a 'double first' from Cambridge and a DPhil from Oxford, and is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society and the Royal Society of Arts, and an Academician of the Academy of the Social Sciences. His books have been translated into many languages including Japanese, Greek, Italian, German, Spanish and Portuguese.

He taught psychology of education at the University of London Institute of Education, and at King's College London. He was educated at King's School Worcester; was an undergraduate scholar at Cambridge University where he took a 'double first' in Natural Sciences; and gained my doctorate in experimental psychology from Oxford in 1974 for studying how the mental dictionary is consulted as we understand language.

He is trained in psychotherapy and has studied Buddhist and other forms of meditation since the mid-1970s.

## Jeff Johnson

**Biography:** After 16 years working as the director of a center based child care program, Jeff and his wife, Tasha, found their way home to family child care in 2003. When he is not cuddling babies, stacking blocks with toddlers, or playing in the dirt with the pre-school children in their care, he is advocating enthusiastically for play, quality early learning, and provider self-care. He is the author of six books, including *Finding Your Smile Again* and *Everyday Early Learning* from Redleaf Press. Jeff keynotes at conferences across the United States using humor and stories to drive home his points.

Visit his website at [www.explorationsearlylearning.com](http://www.explorationsearlylearning.com) for more information.

Official Title: Husband, Father, Family Child Care Professional, Speaker, Author

**Professor Francis Douglas B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., Grad. Cert. Ed.**  
***Professor of Early Childhood Studies***

**Biography:** Professor Francis Douglas was appointed as the first Professor of Early Childhood Studies in Ireland, North or South, on 25th April, 2006.

He graduated with an honours degree in Economics in 1971 and followed this with a Graduate Certificate in Education from St. Joseph's College of Education, Andersonstown, Belfast in 1972. He taught in Primary and Post-Primary Schools before returning to The New University of Ulster to read for a Masters Degree in Education which was awarded to him in 1976. He was appointed to a Lecturing Position in St. Joseph's College of Education, Belfast in 1975 and to the Education Department in University College, Cork in 1980. He was awarded his Ph.D. in Early Childhood Studies in 1993. In 1995 he succeeded, with the help of a group of enthusiastic academics in UCC, in setting up the B.A. Degree in Early Childhood Studies which now has a total of more than 300 undergraduates. He has been the Director of this course since its inception and has been instrumental, with others, in obtaining almost 400,000 Euro of external funding for research.

His main interest is in early years education and care having published at national and international levels in the area. Among his publications are books, chapters in books, articles and Government publications concerning early years policy. As patron of the Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association, he has a particular affinity with the playgroup movement. He co-directed the externally funded UCC Early Years Curriculum Project (Project EYE)--an Irish Curriculum for the three to four year old child and he co-directs the Early Years Postgraduate Studies Programme which has resulted in ten completed Ph.Ds. in Early Childhood Education since 2001. He was also instrumental in rejuvenating OMEP (Ireland)---L'Organisation Mondiale Pour L'Education Prescolaire--- in 2000 and moving its headquarters to UCC. OMEP has published the 'Proceedings' of its conferences in Ireland since 2001 as well as an important book by Dr. Rosaleen Murphy on how to undertake Research. In April 2007 OMEP (Ireland) will publish its first peer-reviewed journal An Leanbh Óg.

**Ronnie Hill, Director of Children's Services Regulation, Scotland.**

**Biography:** Prior to joining the Care Commission as Regional Manager - South East, Ronnie was Head of Edinburgh and Lothian Registration and Inspection Service. He has also held other positions within Strathclyde Region Education Department, where he had lead responsibility for the regulation of children's services under the Children Act 1989. Ronnie graduated as a Social Worker in 1975 and holds an MSc in Advanced Professional Studies.

## **THELMA HARMS**

**Biography:**Thelma Harms is Director of Curriculum Development at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute and Research Professor Emerita in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned an M.A. in Child Development and a Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education at the University of California at Berkeley, where she was Head Teacher of their Harold E. Jones Child Study Center demonstration program for 15 years.

Thelma has lectured and conducted training throughout the U.S., as well as in Canada, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Australia and Russia.

Dr. Harms is the lead author of four widely used program evaluation instruments: the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (Harms, Clifford & Cryer, 1998, 2004); the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (Harms, Cryer & Clifford, 2003, 2006); the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (Harms, Jacobs & White, 1996); and the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale - Revised (Harms, Cryer & Clifford, 2007). As extensions of this work there are two resource books, All About the ECERS-R and All About the ITERS-R (Cryer, Harms & Riley, 2003 & 2004).

Thelma Harms has also co-authored a number of curriculum materials including: the 7-volume Active Learning Series; the Cook and Learn Series; Nutrition Education for Preschoolers; and the 10-part educational television series, "Raising America's Children." She has co-edited a book on working with homeless preschool children in shelters, and a book on infants and toddlers in out-of-home care. In addition to consulting and conducting training Dr. Harms continues to be involved at the FPG Child Development Institute with several scales-related research, training and development projects.

## **Erik Sigsgaard, Pedagogue, seminar teacher, researcher, former politician, writer and lecturer**

**Biography:** Erik Sigsgaard is one of the country's most recognized scientists in teaching and research institution. He has been in this area of extensive research, and he is also author of numerous articles and books, which include "The children and their reality" (1979), "Good Friends" (1983), "The open and closed" (1984), "Children and Institutions" (2001) and "Skældud" (2002) Erik Sigsgaards two major research projects are "limits or not" (1991-98) and "Skældud" (Sanctions Project 1994-2002). He is now assistant at the Center for Institutional Research Højvang Seminary in Glostrup.

In time, he was Lærerhøjskole seminar teacher at Albertslund Kindergarten College, which was subsequently merged with Seminary in Amager and became Højvang Seminary. Initial teacher training and he has a teaching academic education as cand.pæd. He has also researched at the DPU.

Erik Sigsgaards lectures based on his research, books and articles, and they can be adapted to individual queries. Here are some typical lectures, which typically draws full houses.

## **Jan White, Consultant for Outdoor Provision in the Early Years Education.**

**Biography:** Jan White, with over twenty years experience of working in education, Jan has developed a deep commitment to the consistently powerful effect of the outdoors on young children. She now works as an early childhood consultant to advocate and support high quality outdoor provision for all children from birth to five, and is currently a visiting lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, landscape researcher at Sheffield University and associate consultant at Early Excellence. Her book *'Playing and Learning Outdoors: making provision for high quality experiences in the outdoor environment'* is published by Routledge (2008).

**Judy Layland**, Lecturer, BEd(Tchg) (DCE) PGDip(Child Advocacy) (Otago)

DipEd(NZ Equivalency) CertEd(UK)

**Biography:** I was born in County Durham, England, and brought up in East Yorkshire. I spent 7 years teaching in South Yorkshire before emigrating here with my husband in 1985. My teaching experience has been primarily in early childhood education, and I am particularly passionate about literacy learning, and children's participation rights. I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Child Advocacy in 2006 and am currently in the early stages of a Masters degree in Child and Youth Studies.

Teaching Area

- Across curriculum and education studies

Coordinator Role

- Co-ordinator of a 2nd-year professional studies and 3rd-year curriculum paper

Research Interests

- Literacy learning in ECE settings
- Children's participation rights and learning in home-based education and care
- Interested in cross-sector collaboration with the aim of ensuring smoother transitions for children

**Professor Jacqueline Barnes, Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues, London.**

- Director, Local Community Context Evaluation Module, National Evaluation of Sure Start
- Director, Support for Local Programmes Module, National Evaluation of Sure Start
- Director, Right from the Start
- Director, Families and Neighbourhood Study
- Director, Nurse-Family Partnership Implementation Study

**Biography:** Jacqueline Barnes is Professor of Psychology at Birkbeck, University of London and Honorary Senior Psychologist at the Tavistock Clinic. She is an internationally recognised expert in the study of community characteristics, family functioning and young children's behaviour, conducting research in the UK, Europe and the USA. She has studied the identification and management of emotional and behavioural problems of young children in pre-school settings;

methods of assessing parental behaviour; the relevance of measures of parenting for different cultural and socioeconomic groups; evaluation of child mental health and child abuse prevention programmes; early intervention to prevent children's mental health problems; the relevance of community characteristics and the environment to family functioning and child development; the impact of serious parental illness or bereavement on families; the impact of assisted reproduction on parenting and child behaviour; the implications for mothers of returning to work after having a new baby; and the use of qualitative methodologies to investigate family functioning and child behaviour.

She directed the Families and Neighbourhoods study that took place in four communities in England to investigate which aspects of the community facilitate or hinder parenting. The study employed a range of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Interviews were conducted with approximately 900 parents with children ranging from 1 to 11 to examine their perceptions of the communities and the ways in which monitoring of child activities and other parenting issues vary according to the community. Detailed observations were made in the areas, in-depth interviews with a sub sample of families and focus groups with 11 and 12 year olds in local schools. Results of the study are published in a recent book, "Down our Way" published by Wiley.

Professor Barnes is one of the principal investigators of the National Evaluation of Sure Start, responsible for directing the local community context study and the technical support to local programme evaluations. She was responsible for collecting a range of indicators to describe the Sure Start programme areas and for developing ways of categorising the areas in ways that will be informative to the impact, implementation and cost effectiveness studies of the National Evaluation. Professor Barnes also directed a randomised trial (Right from the Start) to evaluate a volunteer home visiting programme for mothers with new babies throughout England.

She has ongoing collaboration with University College Medical School; she was involved in an international study of children conceived using intracyclic sperm injection (ICSI) and invitro fertilisation (IVF); she was one of the investigators of parental perceptions of a bereavement support service for children and one of the investigators in a team who developed an innovative game-like measure of Quality of Life, suitable for children aged 4 to 10 with chronic medical conditions. Work is currently underway to further develop this instrument for administration via the Internet. Collaborating with Oxford University she is a senior researcher on the Families, Children and Child Care study, which followed 1,200 families from the time that their children were 3 months old until school entry at 51 months.

Currently she is directing a study of the implementation of David Olds' Nurse-Family Partnership early intervention programme in 10 pilot sites throughout England.

## **Sylda Langford**

**Biography:** Sylda Langford is the Director General of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and is a well known champion of children and young people. Her role in the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has seen her facilitate the close co operation between government departments with responsibility for children and young people to ensure the best policy and practice outcomes for children and young people in Ireland.