

9.00am **Registration and Coffee**

9.30am **Welcome to the Conference**

Tuan Haj Mohammad Zahri Bin Samington - Mayor of Petaling Jaya City Council (MBJP)

9.40am **Who Dares Wins** Kenny Spence, Founder Men in Childcare - Edinburgh, Scotland

10.20am **Groundhog Day** David Wright, Founder Paint Pots Nursery Group - Southampton, England

11.00am **Coffee Time**

11.20am **A Few Good Men** Jared Baar Administrative Director at Rainbow Rising. Irvine, California USA Quincy McIntyre-Brandt, Discovery Children's Centre - Winnipeg, Canada

12.00pm **Feedback Session**

12.40pm **Lunch Time**

1.40pm **A Beautiful Mind** Clover Spears, Senior Talent Development Manager with EOCF - Washington USA

2.20pm **It's a Wonderful Life** Jerry Parr, Founder Willow Tree Team - Texas USA Peter Graham, Advisor and Consultant, Early Years - Wrexham, Wales

3.00pm **Plenary Future Planning - Where do we go from here?** This is your opportunity to continue to participate in future planning of this important subject.



Hilton Kuala Lumpur
Ballroom April 13, 2026
9am-5pm

A MAN FOR ALL REASONS



Kenny Spence



Kenny Spence is an internationally acknowledged Educator and Presenter. He has pioneered innovative approaches to support men to realize the importance of their involvement in children's lives. This workshop builds on best practice and research internationally and promotes the importance of fatherhood in children's lives. Kenny has been invited by Education Ministries in New Zealand, the Czech Republic and Dubai to be the keynote speaker at their national conferences, both on Men in Early Years and his work with fathers. He has also spoken in Malaysia, Hawaii, California, Belgium, Holland, Norway, the Republic of Ireland and throughout the UK.

He has been called upon for advice from numerous research students on the issue of Men in Early Years, he has also given advice to the research and information sought on the issue to the UK government, the Scottish Government and The Canadian Provisional Government of British Columbia. Kenny Spence, is a member of the World Forum Leadership Team of the Working Group on Men in Early Childhood.

Bryan Nelson



Bryan G. Nelson has worked with young children, men, fathers and families since the 1980s. He is founding director of MenTeach.org and serves as faculty at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota. He is also a consultant to the World Forum's Men in Early Childhood Education program – worldforumfoundation.org/ Bryan has appeared on the Canadian Broadcast Corporation, ABC Good Morning America, BBC, Today Show, CNN, NBC Nightly News, PBS - A Place of Our Own and is quoted in print and online national media. He has written and presented about men in the lives of children both nationally and internationally. He has received various awards including a Leadership Fellowship to attend graduate

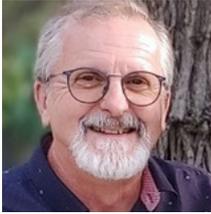
school at Harvard University to research men, fathers and children and in 2015 he was named Exceptional Leader in Education and 2020 Sage Award at Optum Health – a Fortune 5 company. He currently serves on the non-profit boards of Parents In Community Action – Head Start and Dr. Bakare Sickle Cell Foundation, is an advisor to <http://wicoienandagikendan.org/> an early education language immersion program for Native Americans, and Bright Horizon's Education Advisory Board.

David Wright



David Wright is the former owner of Paint Pots Nurseries, an award-winning group of 11 daycare settings based in Southampton in the south of England, providing care for nearly 1,000 children each week. David and his wife Anna have over 30 years' experience of ECE. Amongst his many roles, David acts as an advisor to the UK Government Department of Education and the National Association of Headteachers. He is a World Forum board member and a long-time member of the World Forum Men in ECE working group, an ECE ambassador, author, broadcaster, commentator, presenter, consultant, TEDx speaker and trainer. In 2022, he was the recipient of a national lifetime achievement award from Nursery World magazine. He also received a city of Southampton award from the mayor in recognition of services to ECE.

Ron Blatz



Ron has spent 43 year's in as manager of one of Canada's most unique community owned Centres, situated in central Winnipeg. Using strategies he learned from some of his international colleagues he increased the male staff complement from 1 male to 14 male staff over the course of his career. Ron will share about some of the challenges faced, benefits experienced and strategies used to attract male staff into his Centre. It can be done! Ron is also one of the founding members of the "Working Group" on Men in Early Childhood Education (MECE) that operates under the banner of the World Forum on Early Care and Education.

Jerry Parr



Jerry Parr is owner and founder of Willow Tree Early Education Team, a global consulting company dedicated to current issues in early childhood education. He has a long and valued history with Head Start and Early Head Start, including serving as an Executive Director of Early Childhood at the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Mr. Parr is internationally recognized for his efforts to develop global policy that will encourage the support of increasing the number of males in caregiver and teacher roles in an effort to achieve more equitable gender balance and ensure each child's right to have both men and women in his/her classroom and life. His company partners with organizations around the world that are innovating in the areas of self-sustaining educational programs, inclusion, and program excellence.

Clover Spears



Clover Spears has been in the early education field for 26 years in a variety of roles from classroom to leadership. Clover has been a continuing education trainer for 18 years. She is currently in an HR role providing professional development for a nonprofit early learning agency. Clover is a member of her local Community Action Advisory Board and acts as Chairperson for a local community college Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee. She is a new member of the Men in Early Childhood Education work group, providing advocacy and support for gender equality in the workplace.

Jared Baar



Jared Baar is the Administrative Director of Operations at Rainbow Rising, where he has dedicated the past 19 years to serving children and families. Having worked at every level of the program—from Assistant Teacher to Administration—Jared brings a deep understanding of the organization's mission and day-to-day operations. He currently oversees 17 program locations across the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD), working closely with Site Supervisors to ensure the success of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) at each site. Jared is committed to creating environments that support students academically, emotionally, and socially. From 2021 to 2023, Jared served on the leadership team for the BOOST Conference, a premier convening for out-of-school time professionals.

Peter Graham



Peter lives in Wales, UK and is a highly experienced educator, early years' professional and manager. With a rich and diverse background in education and care spanning four decades, Peter brings a range of expertise to his work. His expertise was developed as a teacher in a number of schools and eventually as an educational leader. His leadership roles included recruitment and retention of staff, curriculum development, quality assurance, and marketing. Over the years, Peter has developed skills in change management through his involvement in the merger of two schools and through setting up and developing early years' centres.

Following his role as a headteacher, Peter became an accredited Inspector of schools and early years' settings in both the public and private sectors. Utilising his early years' expertise, alongside inspection roles, Peter established multi-award-winning daycare provision across four sites in the UK.. During this period he also worked as a Quality Assurance assessor for a major national quality assurance scheme. He has since worked as an advisor and consultant in the early years' sector. Peter has a keen interest in the role that men can play in the care and development of children in their early years.

Garry Jones



Dr. Garry Jones is a sessional instructor at the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary. He has conducted research on the lived experiences of male elementary teachers and the experiences of boys in school. He recently interviewed male sessional instructors who teach pre-service teachers after leaving full-time work with their former school boards. This research is detailed in his study titled The Stories of Retired Male School Teachers, Now Teaching Education Students at Various Universities .(Werklund School of Education, Prism) In addition to his research, Dr. Jones has led a series of online presentations about, and for, men involved in teaching. These sessions, which began in the

2024–2025 academic year, focus on the complex lives of male teachers, with a particular emphasis on elementary and early childhood educators. The presentations are based on extensive research, invited guests, and personal experience. His dedication to teaching excellence has been recognized with several awards, including the Sessional Instructor Award from the Werklund School of Education in 2024 and the Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Quincy McIntyre-Brandt



Quincy has worked directly with children as an early years practitioner for ten years and is currently assistant lead for the Forest School program at Discovery Children's Centre in Winnipeg, Canada. He is passionate about outdoor education, risky play and connecting children with nature. Quincy was first drawn to join the field by recruitment policies that targeted men, and now coordinates Men in Early Childhood Education Manitoba, a peer-led group that creates opportunities for male educators to collaborate, dialogue and support one another. He has been a member of the World Forum's working group on Men in Early Childhood Education for 4 years.

