

Evening Expert Lecture

# Making a difference

Transforming early years practice



**Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March**

*Light Refreshments available from 5.30pm*

Lecture 6pm-7pm - Rowan Williams Court, Medway Campus

**GAIL RYDER RICHARDSON**

**'Leading Learning Outdoors'**

This session, led by Gail Ryder Richardson from *Outdoor Matters!* explores the role and responsibilities of setting leaders and managers in promoting, developing, and using the outdoors, to ensure that their staff teams enjoy and make best use of this special environment to effectively support children's play, learning and development.

SHOWCASING QUALITY PRACTICE IN THE EARLY YEARS SECTOR



[www.outdoormatters.co.uk](http://www.outdoormatters.co.uk)

## Leading Learning Outdoors

*Do you lead a team of practitioners who are reluctant to go outdoors?*

*Are you struggling to overcome resistance and concerns about risk?*

*Do you feel that your outdoor environment is less enabling than your indoor environment?*

### About Gail Ryder Richardson

Gail has a Masters in Early Childhood Education and has worked in the Early Years sector for over 30 years in a wide range of roles including advice and support, education inspections and quality assurance. From January 2008 until March 2011 Gail worked for The National Strategies to support and challenge Local Authorities across the South East to improve educational outcomes for children under five years old.

Prior to taking up this position Gail was a Senior Development Officer for Learning through Landscapes, a charity that promotes the value and importance of the outdoor environment in schools and settings. In this role Gail delivered projects and published a book *Creating a Space to Grow*, she also wrote articles on outdoor play for Nursery World magazine, and contributed to the development of the materials for the Enabling Environment theme within the Early Years Foundation Stage.

In her current role as an independent trainer and consultant Gail promotes the message that Outdoor Matters! She continues to work with Nursery World and has recently collaborated on two training DVD's; *Outdoor Play, Learning and Development 0-3 and 3-5*. She is currently publishing an information wheel for parents *A Parent's Guide to Outdoor Play*, and she is working closely with Local Authorities and organisations to support initiatives to improve outdoor practice.

Gail's professional knowledge and her practical and creative approach to overcoming problems, is combined with a genuine understanding of the challenges practitioners face, making her uniquely placed to support early years providers wanting to improve their outdoor practice.

*For further information, please contact Frances Matthews at:*  
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