

Funding Opportunity for Development and Evaluation of Early Years Interventions

Friday 19 May 2017
10.30am – 1.00pm

Background

Gaps in outcomes begin to emerge between children from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds as early as age three. The early years therefore represent a key stage for intervention to improve the learning of disadvantaged children. While there is some high-quality evidence about 'what works' in the early years, there is less strong evidence to indicate which specific interventions are most effective in improving children's learning and development. The Nuffield Foundation and Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) are both committed to addressing this research gap in order to support early years settings looking for well-evidenced programmes. This event therefore marks the launch of a call for proposals and a new strategic relationship between the Nuffield Foundation and the EEF that aims to support an end-to-end approach to building evidence in the early years.

The Nuffield Foundation is issuing a call for proposals that focus on the development and early evaluation of promising early years interventions that currently have a limited evidence base. The aim of any funded work would be to develop interventions and their evidence base, in order to demonstrate their readiness for a more rigorous evaluation of their effectiveness via a randomised controlled trial. Where such development is successful, the project would then be a strong candidate for subsequent EEF funding.

This seminar will allow practitioners and researchers to hear more about the criteria and expectations relating to the funding opportunity. Attendees will hear from some leading researchers with experience of developing and evaluating successful interventions. While in addition, the seminar will provide an opportunity for people who have designed and delivered early years interventions to develop partnerships with researchers who have relevant evaluation experience.

Programme

- 10.30 am** **Registration, tea and coffee**
Served in the Dining Room
- 11.00 am** **Welcome and Introduction**
Tim Gardam, Chief Executive, Nuffield Foundation
- 11.05 am** **Importance of Early Years and Well-Evidenced Interventions**
Sir Kevan Collins, Chief Executive, Education Endowment Foundation
- 11.10 am** **Nuffield Foundation's Call for Proposals**
Josh Hillman, Director of Education, Nuffield Foundation
- 11.20 am** **Lessons from the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI)**
Professor Maggie Snowling, University of Oxford
Professor Charles Hulme, University of Oxford
- Lessons from the Sutton Trust Esmée Fairbairn Parental Engagement Fund**
Laura Barbour, Sutton Trust
Fiona Jelley, University of Oxford
- Measuring Outcomes in the Early Years**
Professor Jane Hurry, University College London, Institute of Education
- 12.35 pm** **Questions and Answers regarding Call for Proposals**
Josh Hillman, Director of Education, Nuffield Foundation
Ruth Maisey, Programme Head, Education, Nuffield Foundation
Matt Van Poortvliet, Grants Manager, Education Endowment Foundation
- 12.55 pm** **Next Steps**
Josh Hillman, Director of Education, Nuffield Foundation
- 1.00 pm** **Networking Lunch**
Served in the Dining Room