

Bridging the Distance

Professional Development Programme

“We need to remember across generations that there is as much to learn as there is to teach.” Gloria Steinem

Bridging the Distance is a two-day professional development programme designed to enhance creative interactions between early years children and older people in intergenerational spaces. It is a new and dynamic collaboration between Curious Minds and the intergenerational charity, Ready Generations.

We believe truly world class intergenerational work should:

- Be rooted in the reality of people’s lived experience
- Recognise the centrality of human dignity
- Ensure experiences take place in meaningful contexts
- Meet the diverse needs of all participants and be clear about impact
- Build sustained relationships
- Make experiences real, exciting and inspirational
- Develop the whole person – intellectual, aesthetic, physical, emotional, spiritual and social
- Excite imaginations and fire curiosity
- Raise aspirations and widen horizons
- Provide hope and a desire to make the world a better place



Programme overview and benefits

High quality, thought-provoking professional development for creative leaders is key to making great things happen for people of all ages. If you are new to intergenerational projects or aspiring to understand more in order to expand the reach of your work then this two-day programme is for you.

The programme will equip you with the confidence to lead and drive authentic and sustainable intergenerational projects that improve life and relational connections for children and older people. It will include opportunities for you to reflect on your practice hear more about global intergenerational approaches and explore intergenerational tools and frameworks.

Above all, the focus is to introduce the concept of *communities of interest not age* where integration rather than segregation becomes the dominant theme.

The programme also allows participants to develop together; building on each other's experiences and establishing supportive bonds that can last into the future.



Who is this for?

The **Bridging the Distance** programme is a professional development programme for anyone wishing to use creativity to bring children and older people together to be curious, explore, notice and learn from each other.

Programme structure

Over the two days, you will work interactively to identify and explore themes that will help you to:

- Ensure very young children have safe and high quality learning and care experiences that meet the requirements of the government's Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, Characteristics of Effective Learning and Early Years Development Goals.
- Understand how you, as a creative leader, can make a sustained difference to the lived experience of both young children and older people.
- Embed behaviours that inspire and promote respectful intergenerational practices and overcome barriers to engagement.
- Learn about the latest research and developments in global intergenerational work.
- Develop a dynamic set of intergenerational priorities for yourself and your team.

Programme core elements

The Programme is designed around 6 core elements, which are introduced over the two face to face contact days. Between the contact days you will be encouraged to engage in an inter-sessional provocation task that can be related to your own situation and ambitions.

The core elements have been carefully structured to support you to move through a process of discovery and learning. They introduce key enquiry questions that form the basis for reflection, discussion, thinking and action.



Overview of what's involved / your commitment

- Attendance at the two face to face contact days
- Completion of a simple inter-sessional, action-learning task to consolidate understanding and apply learning

Programme dates

- Tuesday 21st June 2022
- Tuesday 5th July 2022

Course facilitators

The course facilitators are Sue Egersdorff and Liz Ludden. Both have worked with many early years and care professionals in the UK and internationally, sharing their passion for the development of genuine early years and intergenerational excellence.