

Call for
entries

early years 2009 the awards

Annual award dinner and ceremony

Saturday September 19th, 2009

Renold Building, Sackville Street Campus, The University of Manchester, Manchester



Lifetime achievement award

The accolade will be awarded to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to early years over many years. Previous winners include prestigious names such as Francis Mary Blight, Pauline Trundell, Tina Bruce, Jean Ensing CBE, Professor Lesley Abbott, Lesley Staggs, Kate Gooding and Anne Nelson.

Early years professional of the year

This award is open to all early years practitioners who have been awarded Early Years Professional Status (EYPS), and who can demonstrate that they have used their experience in gaining EYPS to make a real and lasting difference to the setting in which they work, and to the children in their care. Written evidence should be provided to support the nomination, including at least one from the individual's manager, or local authority. Up to four photos can be sent to support the nomination.

Birth-to-three setting of the year

This award will recognise a team which has provided exceptional care over the last year for children from birth-to-three years of age. Written evidence should be accompanied by no more than four photos.

Foundation stage setting of the year

This award will recognise a maintained nursery school or a nursery class/reception class or foundation stage unit in a school which can demonstrate exceptional educational provision over the last year for three-to-five year olds. Written evidence may be accompanied by no more than four photos.

Daycare setting of the year

This award will recognise a setting which can demonstrate that its team has worked hard to achieve exceptional full daycare provision over the last year. Entrants should be able to show how they have worked to meet the individual needs of the children in their care. Written evidence may be accompanied by no more than four photos.

Creative setting of the year

This award will recognise a team which has been involved in a single creative project of excellent quality or have worked tirelessly, in a variety of ways over the last year, to release the creative potential of themselves and their children. This may or may not have involved artists in residence and can be in relation to any aspect of creativity. Written evidence can be accompanied by no more than four photos.

Outdoor setting of the year

This award will recognise a setting which can provide evidence that the team has significantly improved the quality of the provision for children's learning out of doors over the last year. Written evidence may be accompanied by no more than four photos.

Inclusive setting of the year

This award will recognise a setting which can show its team has worked over the last year to develop inclusive practice. Teams entering this category should provide evidence in writing to show how they have worked to reduce barriers in learning to enable all children to reach their full potential in their setting.

Family-friendly setting of the year

This award will recognise a setting which can demonstrate exceptional partnership with families over the last year – entrants should be able to show how they have enabled families to feel comfortable within their setting and how they have engaged them with their children's development and learning. Written evidence may be accompanied by no more than four photos.

Childminder of the year

This category is open to all registered childminders in Britain who work in all aspects of daycare, whether this is a local authority, health authority, independent setting or even with an individual family. The deserving winner will be someone who has amply demonstrated the commitment for the children in his or her care and who enthusiastically encourages children's all round development.

The judging panel

The awards will be judged by a highly distinguished panel of judges who will draw up a short list of candidates in all categories.

Margaret Edgington, BEd (chairperson), early years consultant, Leicester

Matt Govett, BA, publisher, **eye**, London

Neil Henty, editor, **eye**, London

Jenny Barber, NNEB, certificate in early years education, early years and childcare trainer, Buckinghamshire

Ros Bayley, Cert Ed, educational consultant and trainer, Walsall

Mary Callard, NNEB, Certificate in Early Childhood Education, Certificate of Advancement in Learning Mentoring, HLTA, London

Richard Dorrance, chief executive officer, Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education, (CACHE)

Manny Lewis, former chair, Early Education (The British Association of Early Childhood Education), London

Jessica Waterhouse, consultant editor, **eye**, London
(To be confirmed)

The awards

The ten separate awards will be presented to well-deserving practitioners who have contributed exceptionally to their profession. The winner of each of the categories will win a commissioned, commemorative plaque to be presented at the celebratory evening.

Entry criteria

1. Entry is open to early years professionals individually or as members of a team or setting, as applicable, working with children aged from nought to five. Applicants may come from either the state or independent sector.
2. Individual entries should be made either by the individual himself/herself or through the nomination of a colleague. The entry should be supported by a statement from a playgroup leader, head teacher, nursery/early years centre manager, or early years co-ordinator.
3. Entries for any of the "Setting of the year" categories should contain a statement signed by an appropriate executive member of an educational authority or, in the case of the independent sector, the head of the institution or organisation.
4. Entries for the "Lifetime achievement award" should indicate how many years involvement in the early years sector by the individual, whether that is as a practitioner, teacher, pioneer or leader.
5. Each individual nomination must be supported by a statement of not more than 500 words. There should also be a supporting statement of no more than 100 words signed by the appropriate line manager as defined above. The judges may decide to disqualify entrants who submit more than the allotted words.
6. No one employed or closely connected to **eye**, or the Mark Allen Group, be that employee, spouse, close relative, or regular contributor or columnist, may enter the awards.
7. In certain circumstances, if the standard of entries is considered not high enough, the judges may elect not to make a particular award.
8. Short-listed candidates will be invited to a prestigious dinner and awards ceremony in Manchester on Saturday, September 19th, 2009 where the winners will be announced.
9. The closing date for entries in all categories is August 1st, 2009.
10. The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into.
11. Judges will make their decisions based on the criteria requested only.

Organised by



In association with



An MA Education event



early years 2009

AWARDS ENTRY FORM

CLOSING DATE August 1st, 2009

Complete and return to:

Javan Abass,
Early Years 2009 Awards,
MA Education Ltd,
St Jude's Church,
Dulwich Road,
London SE24 0PB

Tel: 020 7501 6748

Fax: 020 7733 8174

Email: javan.a@markallengroup.com

I/We wish to enter the following awards:

Please specify

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I/We attach supporting statements as required in the entry criteria.

Name

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Job title/position.....

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Address

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Post code

Tel no (day)

Tel no (evenings).....

Email.....