

## **Embedding Learning in Culture - Optimizing Digital Connectivity to Culture Creating and Connecting - Building a Learning Culture though Virtual Learning Spaces in the Early Years Community**

**Wednesday 4 August 2021 - Parallel Session 3 - 11.30am to 12.30pm (GMT+1)**

**CAMERON - Embedding Learning in Culture**

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The purpose of this work is to increase digital connectivity and a shared culture of learning across remote and rural areas, including five of the most access deprived communities in Scotland. During the first COVID 19 lockdown in 2020, virtual learning for our youngest children was variable in quality. Provision of a developmentally appropriate, play based curriculum in Early Years was difficult to achieve virtually and required a high level of family engagement. Practitioners did not initially have a high level of digital skill. Since January 2021, through a culture of collaboration and sharing practice across remote and rural areas, practitioners have connected with young children, parents and carers-deepening family engagement and creating a culture of shared pedagogical understanding. Methods used include Improvement Methodology, quantitative measures of Practitioner Engagement gathered through MS Teams and qualitative data gathered through case studies. Virtual learning spaces are now used widely across remote and rural areas to support learning; to aid transition; as a moderation tool between settings; to access professional learning remotely; to communicate curriculum rationale to families and partners; by children themselves in settings; to increase family learning and to share pedagogical practices with families. The use of Virtual Learning Spaces has created a connected culture of shared pedagogy across the North of Scotland, with a sustained shift in the use of digital pedagogy to support our youngest rural children and families.