

02

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RENFIELD TRAINING & CONFERENCE CENTRE  
GLASGOW, G2



# Inclusion and Neurodiversity Every Child Matters Conference



Carol Allen



Cheryl Warren



Tanya Tennant





## Carol Allen

This lively session will focus on accessible, inclusive teaching and learning opportunities in the earliest stages of education. Beginning with an exploration of the importance of understanding the coordinating role of sensory information in the brain and what to do with imbalance, we will move to aligning this with developmental processes, especially the role of Executive Function.

This will be followed by an understanding of UDL (universal design for learning) which aims to provide inclusive offerings proactively in our settings rather than always playing 'catchup' and having to use reactive responses to need. There will be a plethora of practical examples and ideas to take away and try in your setting.

Finally, we will focus on student voice. Speaking and listening are the core skills for later communication. They are also the way we create relationships; make our wants and needs known and establish our understanding of the world. Yet communication difficulties, of all types, are a primary barrier for so many starting play group, nursery or school. So we will look at how a communication friendly setting can work to support every child that joins it. From simple classroom accommodations to early technology you will gain ideas and hopefully be empowered to try these out yourself.



**Cheryl Warren**

## **Becoming a neurodiversity affirming educator**

All children need our support, our understanding and the opportunity to connect with us. But what if children are playing and behaving in a way that we haven't seen before, in a way that is different to their peers, and we are unsure how to connect with them, play with them or know how best to support them?

In this session Cheryl will explore the reasons why neurodivergent children react and respond differently in our environments, provide us with an understanding of their sensory needs and their impact on how they navigate an early years space. Cheryl will help us all to know why we should be and then how we can become a neurodiversity affirming educator, one who provides safe environments for neurodivergent children and their families to thrive.



**Tanya Tennant**

## **Understanding anxiety and distressed behaviour**

This session will support attendees to;

- Examine behaviours that you find difficult to understand or manage
- Be able to use the **WHAT, WHY, and HOW** method of understanding behaviour
- Outline practical support to help children to learn to manage anxiety and distressed behaviour