

Welcome to The Solent SCITT's newsletter. We will keep you up to date with news from across the partnership, exciting opportunities for teacher training and topical updates from our team.



## Subject Expert's Corner

### Early Years: Laying the Foundations

#### Subject Expert Profile

#### Ben Frank



*Ben has been teaching Early Years for 8 years and Year F Lead for 5 of those. He recently worked as an Early Years Advisory teacher for Portsmouth City Council. Ben is currently Assistant Headteacher, Year F Lead and class teacher at Horndean Infant School.*

A child's first years of school will play a vital part in their lives and determine their academic, social and, probably, their occupational future. A heavy burden to carry for any Early Years teacher but equally a wonderful opportunity to be the teacher that first ignites a child's passion for learning.

That first venture into 'big school' can be an exciting time for a four-year old but it is also full of anxieties and trepidation. It is important to place a huge emphasis on developing children's personal, social and emotional well-being before we even think of engaging children in new learning opportunities.

The best Early Years settings would have developed a safe and stimulating environment full of opportunities for children to develop positive relationships and confidence to explore and follow their own interests. This is when the magic starts to happen!

Through equal doses of sustained child-initiated play and focus teaching of new skills based on children's interests, the progress children make with Early Years can be phenomenal. Playing is vital for young children. Playing indoors and out, alone with and others, quietly or boisterously allows children to find out about the world around them.

Alongside play, new skills are taught whether that is emergent writing and reading or making sense of number. Good teaching in Early Years should be skills based which enables a teacher to latch on to a child's interest as a vehicle to introduce learning. It shouldn't matter whether a child is writing about signs of Autumn or their favourite superhero as long as they are meeting the objective you are teaching. Is there a better way to take your first steps as a writer than writing about what you love? What better feeling is there than seeing a child take their first steps towards reading and writing, especially when they produce a picture of you in stick form labelled 'bes ticher evr'.

If you would like more information about teaching and how to apply through UCAS, contact Phil Seery at [info@thesolentscitt.co.uk](mailto:info@thesolentscitt.co.uk)

Tel: 02392 489 819

[www.thesolentscitt.co.uk](http://www.thesolentscitt.co.uk)

The Solent  
**ScITT**  
School Centred Initial Teacher Training



## News

Five of our Science trainees have successfully secured teaching posts in Hampshire for September 2019.

We are open for recruitment and have an Open Morning Drop-In scheduled for 10-1pm on Saturday January 19th at The Dickinson Centre, Park Community School, PO9 4BU.

The Solent SCITT has become an accredited provider of the Assessment Only route and will begin to offer this in 2019. Please contact [p.seery@pcs.hants.sch.uk](mailto:p.seery@pcs.hants.sch.uk) for more information.



### *Mentor Profile Cathy Cromie*

*Cathy completed a BED Hons Degree at Bangor University of Wales in 1999. She completed her Maths Specialist Teacher qualification at Brighton University before teaching at a rural school with mixed aged classes. Cathy is currently a SCITT mentor working at Trosnant Schools Federation where she is Phase, English and MFL Lead.*

## Talking Point

The training cohort have looked at the concept of 'Growth Mindset' during training this term.

Do you believe the Growth Mindset idea that intelligence can be developed rather than being set in stone?

How could you use Growth Mindset to positively impact upon your teaching practice?

Click below to read more:  
<https://bit.ly/2CDfvtU>

## Mentor Reflections

### *Making the Trainee Feel Part of the Team*

I really enjoy my role as a mentor. I have worked with numerous trainee teachers over the years, including PGCE, BEd, School Direct and an MFL student from Belgium.

I feel mentoring trainee teachers and Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) keeps me up to date with new initiatives and ensures that I continue to use good practice in class.

Trying out new ideas in my class in partnership with my students is something I really enjoy doing. We can find the best ways to adapt these ideas to suit individuals within our class.

The main role of the mentor is to share and model good practice, talk about the decisions you make as a class teacher in order to best prepare your SCITT student for their future role as a teacher.

It is really important to listen to their views and ideas and ensure they feel valued as part of your team. They need to be supported to move from following your plans and pedagogical ideas to begin adapting and trialling their own ideas to find success in their future roles.

*If you are interested in becoming a mentor, let us know. We are also always looking for schools to host school experience.*

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