



# Enabling Environments -the third teacher

CPD

DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MAKES A RICH LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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## Description:

The impact that the environment can have on learning, development and creativity is profound. We will look at the aspects of the environment that play a part in encouraging creativity and wellbeing. We will look at the influence of other pedagogies which have influenced current practice focusing on Reggio Emilia. In the Reggio Emilia approach they refer to the environment as the Third Teacher - showing the importance they place on creating the right environment for learning and growth and for children to construct their own learning. We will look at an in-depth environment audit - a resource that could be used to evaluate your current learning environment and plan for possible improvements. We will consider the many elements that contribute to creating an outstanding environment from aesthetics, access to intelligent materials, opportunities for inquiry based learning to environmental factors and sustainability. We will discover how the environment impacts on wellbeing and learning dispositions. The session will also encourage an approach whereby the outdoor environment is seen as equally important to the indoor environment in providing rich learning opportunities.

## Aims:

From this course you will:

- Develop an understanding of the importance of the environment for learning, development and well being
- Learn about the Reggio Emilia approach to the environment referred to as the Third Teacher
- Learn how the environment can support creativity and imagination
- How environments can facilitate and encourage communication
- Learn how the environment can support open ended enquiry based learning
- Look at ways that physical development can be enhanced
- Examples and case studies of inspiring indoor and outdoor environments
- Complete an in-depth environment audit
- Consulting with children – examples of children’s feedback and contributions to design ideas

Pete Moorhouse is an Artist Educator and Early Years Consultant. He is an associate trainer for Early Education and is an Honorary Research fellow at The Graduate School of Education, University of Bristol researching creative and critical thinking in early years. He is the author of several journal articles and books and a Member of ICENet – the International Creative Education Network.

AUDIENCE: EARLY YEARS LEADERS, MANAGERS, TEACHERS & PRACTITIONERS  
SESSION: INSET HALF DAY – OR AS TWILIGHT/SAT AM

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