



Bambini in Europa  
Barn i Europa  
Børn i Europa  
Children in Europe  
Copii în Europa  
Dzieci w Europie  
Enfants d'Europe  
Infância a Europa  
Infancia en Europa  
Infância na Europa  
Kinder in Europa  
Kinderen in Europa  
Παιδιά στην Ευρώπη

**Children in Scotland**  
every child - every childhood

**Media Release 14/09/09**

## **Successful science learning requires an earlier start**

**Children are born discoverers but maintaining and developing this natural curiosity is a challenge. How to achieve this and encourage more children to study science at a higher level will be considered at the Children in Europe Annual Conference 2009 *Exploring the world and beyond: young children as scientists.***

Delegates will hear from politicians, scientists and educationalists from across Scotland and Europe and consider how best to develop and maintain children's interest in science and capitalise on young children's fascination with exploration and discovery. Focusing on the early years when children's natural curiosity is at its height and providing the necessary environments to allow children to learn effectively about science are keys to success.

Speakers at the conference include Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning; Professor Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland; Professor Geoffrey Boulton of the University of Edinburgh, member of the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology; and Heather Reid, BBC Scotland's Senior Broadcast Meteorologist. The conference will be chaired by Kate Bellingham, National STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Careers Coordinator.

Bronwen Cohen, Chief Executive of Children in Scotland, the English language publisher of Children in Europe magazine said:

"The early years offer lots of opportunities to engage children and capitalize on their natural curiosity. Science is a broad and exciting subject especially for young children, and it is important to introduce children to a wide range of experiences at an early age so that they can begin to develop their scientific knowledge."

Education Secretary Fiona Hyslop said:

"The Scottish government is placing science at the centre of Curriculum for Excellence – our new approach to teaching and learning – so we can increase

Scotland's focus on science learning and give young people a better understanding and appreciation of science.

"The Children in Europe conference provides an excellent opportunity for all involved in delivering science education in Scotland to share ideas and learn from the approaches taken in other countries."

– Ends –

**\* OPPORTUNITY FOR PHOTOGRAPHS \***

**You are invited to send a photographer to Our Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh between 12:40 and 13:00 on 16 September where Heather Reid, BBC Scotland's Senior Broadcast Meteorologist, will be taking part in practical science workshops with children from P3 and P7 from the Royal Mile Primary School, Edinburgh. For further details, contact Tracey Francis on 0131 222 2419**

**Notes for Editors**

1. The Children in Europe Annual Conference 2009, ***Exploring the world and beyond: young children as scientists*** will take place on 16 September at Our Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh. Themes of the day include: why science learning is important for young children; Scottish Government plans for the development of science and education, with a focus on science within Curriculum for Excellence; international approaches to science education; and challenges facing teachers and educators.
2. **Children in Europe:** Children in Europe is a magazine for everyone working with and for children and those interested in children's issues. It is published simultaneously in 15 languages and 17 countries by a network of national magazines across Europe. It aims to provide a forum for ideas, practice and information and to contribute to the development of policy and practice at European and national levels. It is published in the UK by Children in Scotland. Children in Europe Issue 16, ***Exploring the world and beyond: young children as scientists*** was published in March. For more information visit [www.childrenineurope.org](http://www.childrenineurope.org)
3. **Children in Scotland** is the longstanding national 'umbrella' agency for the whole of the children's sector, reaching over 250,000 individuals through our extensive membership of more than 450 statutory agencies, voluntary sector organisations, professional associations and community groups. For further information visit [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk)

**To order a copy of Children in Europe telephone 0131 222 2431 or visit [www.childreninscotland.org.uk/publications](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/publications)**

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