



# Early Years Wales Awards 2019

## & the winners are...

The very first Early Years Wales Awards took place on the 8th May, in the spectacular setting of Ruthin Castle Hotel & Spa in Denbighshire.

Approximately 70 guests, including finalists, members and representatives from the Early Years sector in Wales attended the event. Guests were welcomed with a refreshing drinks reception prior to being seated for a delicious Afternoon Tea; prepared and served by the hotel staff, during which the awards ceremony took place.

**But for now, however, we are delighted to announce the winners and highly commended finalists of the 2019 Early Years Wales Awards.**

The day closed with an entertaining and inspirational talk from Lynn Williams of TLC Training on behaviour management and learning techniques.

Congratulations to all our finalists and thank you to all that entered and were nominated. The judging panel found the standard to be exceptionally high and therefore the final decisions very difficult to make. You should all be very proud. You have proved, what we all know to be true...that our members set the bar when it comes to improving the lives of young children in Wales and in supporting their families.



## Early Years Wales Learner of the Year Rachel Cinderby from Cynfran Playgroup, Conwy

This award was looking to recognise an individual who had demonstrated progression and excellence within the Early Years sector.

Rachel Cinderby was awarded the Learner of the Year Award because of her commitment and dedication to Cynfran Playgroup. As a volunteer she has paid and trained for her CCLD Level 2 and is about to start her Level 3.

She has also completed a 10-week Elklan speech and language course, a first aid course, food safety, safeguarding and many other short courses. Nothing is too much trouble for Rachel.

## Early Years Wales Volunteer of the Year

### Claire Drake Brockman from Llandogo Early Years, Monmouthshire

This award was looking for a passionate and outstanding individual who goes above and beyond to donate their time to the early years sector.

Claire Drake Brockman (aka Miss Daisy) was our deserved winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award. She has been a huge part of Llandogo for many years, her work with the children – gardening, storytelling, arts and crafts etc was recognised by Estyn as having an Excellent impact on the children’s well-being in the settings last inspection.



## Early Years Wales Innovator of the Year Chuckles Nursery, Newport

This award was looking for new or different ways of delivering early years childcare.

Chuckles Nursery in Newport were the first nursery in their area to open at 6am and on bank holidays. A review of their pricing & session structure now enables parents to have an 8 – 12-hour day starting at 6am through to 10am at a standard hourly rate, resulting in a higher uptake. This amongst many initiatives made Chuckles stand out to the judges.



## Early Years Wales Practitioner of the Year

### Marion Lloyd Chambers from Borthyn Bunnies, Denbighshire

This award was looking for a dedicated, passionate & committed professional who puts the child at the centre of everything they do.

Marion has recently been promoted to acting Playgroup Leader. Her naturally calm and gentle approach encourages the children to learn independently and they feel confident learning through trial and error. Marion’s all-round positive and happy attitude also impacts on her colleagues and the parents! By going above and beyond what is required in her planning and activities, sees the children thrive.



## Early Years Wales Setting of the Year

### Abacus Day Nursery, Swansea






This award was looking for a setting driven by their passion for supporting Early Years children and quality childcare.

Abacus Day Nursery oozes passion! A bilingual setting where the health & well-being of children & staff is paramount. The setting places a strong emphasis on staff training and CPD and amongst many other awards it holds a Highly Commended QfA accreditation and holds Healthy & Sustainable Pre-school Status. It has excellent links with parents, the community and external partners such as Team Around the Family (TAF). Ultimately the setting promotes a holistic, child-centered approach where children are encouraged to develop in a nurturing environment.





## Highly commended


-  **Early Years Wales Learner of the Year:**  
Lucy McConnell from The Croft Playgroup, Flintshire
-  **Early Years Wales Volunteer of the Year:**  
Sylvia Parker from Ysgol Feithrin Conwy, Conwy
-  **Early Years Wales Innovator of the Year:**  
Marford Little Explorers, Wrexham
-  **Early Years Wales Practitioner of the Year:**  
Carly Barker, Tudno Playschool, Conwy
-  **Early Years Wales Setting of the Year:**  
Lullabyz Nursery, Newport







**Don't worry, this isn't the last you'll hear from our winners and highly commended finalists.**

We'll be sharing with you over the coming months just how and why, our finalists for the first Early Years Wales awards were so well deserved.

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