



# Wendy Ellyatt

CATALYST AND CHANGEMAKER

## About Wendy

Wendy is passionate about unlocking the potential in people.

What does fulfil us and produce sustainable states of wellbeing? How do we protect both children and adults from systems that undermine our inherent creativity and potential? How do we ensure that we can all feel valued and connected? Wendy's diverse projects explore the vital importance of early childhood, the shaping of values and mindsets, the purpose of education systems, the foundations of compassionate communities and our shared need for relationship, meaning and contribution.

For the last thirty years Wendy has been exploring the unique qualities of human learning and development, with a particular emphasis on what gives us meaning and purpose. Her studies have taken her from being a specialist in the foundational importance of early learning, to examining early years policymaking, international perspectives, natural systems dynamics and the importance of family and community life for the creation of sustainable societies and cultures of lifelong learning.

Following the birth of her daughter she moved on from her first career as a management consultant to become increasingly interested in early human development and the ways in which this underpins the creation of happy and healthy communities. After finishing a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Studies, she went on to become a well-known writer and consultant in the field, with a focus on holistic approaches to learning and education.

During this time she created the **Unique Child Network** [www.uniquechildnetwork.ning.com](http://www.uniquechildnetwork.ning.com) to connect people worldwide who were concerned about the nature of current education systems. She was on the editorial board of the **International Montessori Journal** and produced both the Parent's Guide to Montessori and the online resource library for Montessori students.

IN 2002 she met the Jungian analyst Roger Woolger and became very interested in what was being revealed through his 'Deep Memory Process'. She became part of the core group of experienced transpersonal healers and therapists that had come around this work and in 2003 she helped establish the **Integral Regression Network** to maintain the connection between the people that had been profoundly impacted by their experiences.

An understanding of transpersonal psychology then increased her interest in the human need for wholeness and balance, with internal states in constant dynamic interaction with external experiences.



Member of the Global Council for the Wellbeing Economy Alliance



Long-term fellow of the RSA



Recognised by the Brahma Kumaris as one of the '100 Women of Spirit'



[www.wendyellyatt.com](http://www.wendyellyatt.com)



[wendyellyatt@gmail.com](mailto:wendyellyatt@gmail.com)



# Wendy Ellyatt

CATALYST AND CHANGEMAKER

## About Wendy

In 2003 she also became a Founding Director of **The Ouroboros Trust** which aimed to bring an understanding of ancient and indigenous wisdom to contemporary cultures. The Trust produced the magazine 'Sophos' <http://www.sophos.uk.com/sophosmay2008> and under the title 'In Search of the Sacred' it ran a series of talks and events bringing the knowledge and understanding of well-known experts and researchers in the field to a more public audience.

During this time she also developed the website <http://sophosnetwork.ning.com> in order to share her own evolving understanding of the nature of wisdom. In 2006 she was introduced to the work and teachings of **Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev** and in 2007 she spent time with him and others at The Isha Foundation in Southern India. She later wrote about the Isha Home School's approach to human learning <https://ishahomeschool.org> and also helped to develop the website for **Project Greenhands** <https://www.projectgreenhands.org>

In 2007 she joined a multi-disciplinary group of early years experts who had formed the "Open Eye Campaign" to challenge the UK government's introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This group became extremely influential and their actions resulted in major improvements to the proposed introduction.

In 2009 she decided that it was time to bring her own understanding of what matters down to earth in a very practical way and she created what went on to become a highly successful asset-based community initiative in her home town of Cheltenham [www.cheltenhamconnect.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamconnect.co.uk) together with the most popular networking initiative for people new to the town [www.cheltenhamexpats.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamexpats.co.uk)

In 2013 she established **The Save Childhood Movement** [www.savechildhood.net](http://www.savechildhood.net) to help raise national awareness about the erosion of childhood. Following the success of the 'Too Much Too Soon' Campaign [www.toomuchtoosoon.org](http://www.toomuchtoosoon.org), which achieved significant press coverage and support, in 2014 the movement then launched **National Children's Day UK** [www.nationalchildrensdayuk.com](http://www.nationalchildrensdayuk.com) which has gone on to become a nationally recognised event with a significant social media following (with a maximum reach of 3.2 million on Facebook)

Life is not outside  
of you. You are life.



# Wendy Ellyatt

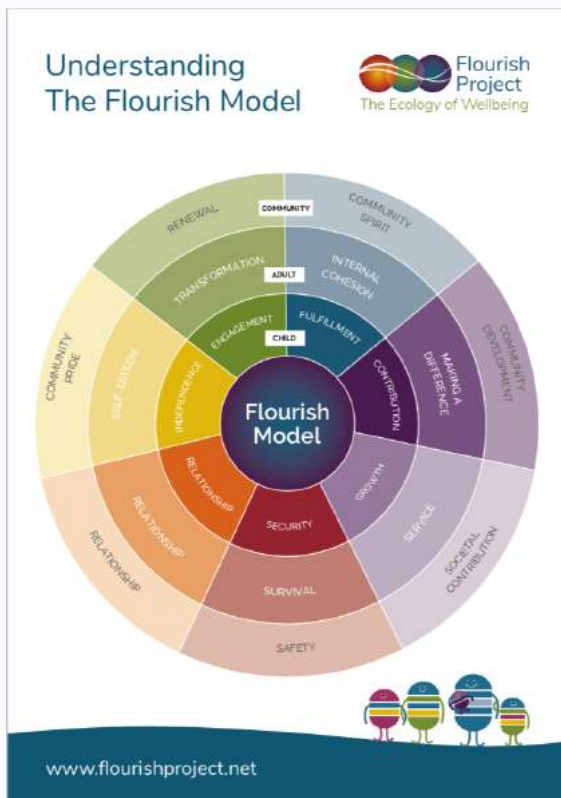
CATALYST AND CHANGEMAKER

## About Wendy

In 2019 she became a **Global Council Member** for the **Wellbeing Economy Alliance** <https://wellbeingeconomy.org> and is currently developing the **Flourish Project** [www.flourishproject.net](http://www.flourishproject.net) as a global initiative introducing the **Flourish Values Model (FVM)** as a new and powerful framework for understanding and mapping human wellbeing that promotes community engagement and whole -systems thinking.

Through actively engaging communities, and encouraging the creation of social hubs, the project aims to join up the dots, identify the gaps and develop practical solutions by working from the grassroots up. It aims to work with leaders, policymakers and citizens to better understand and promote the health and wellbeing of their own communities and populations. It helps to ensure that child and family wellbeing and resilience is at the heart of all local decision-making and assists cities and local authorities to become Centres of Flourishing.

Above all, it aims to underpin the growing call for a more caring and compassionate world.



“Across the world people have been exploring ways in which we can better measure development and progress in terms of human wellbeing. A number of challenges have arisen in the approaches undertaken by different countries and cultures, but there has been clear agreement that measures of GDP alone are not sufficient and that we need to develop a more coherent global approach. There has also been clear agreement that the current systems are failing to appropriately support the development of flourishing communities and an equitable, sustainable and stable planet. The Flourish Model suggests a new Ecology of Wellbeing that puts lives of meaning, purpose and value back at the core and the natural, healthy development of young children as fundamental to the process.”

Flourish Project, 2018



SECURITY RELATIONSHIP RESILIENCE ENGAGEMENT FULFILLMENT CONTRIBUTION GROWTH

[www.flourishproject.net](http://www.flourishproject.net)



# Wendy Ellyatt

CATALYST AND CHANGEMAKER

## Writing

**Why we need the Flourish Model: Exploring the History of Global Wellbeing indicators**, Flourish Project, Sept 2018

**The Little Book of Flourishing** - Flourish Project, August 2018

**Introducing the Flourish Model** - Flourish Project, July 2018

**Digital Lives - Technology and the Future of Childhood** - Fabian Society Roundtable, Nov 2017

**Happy and Healthy - Children's Lives in 2020** - Fabian Society Roundtable on Childhood, Oct 2017

**Play - a right of Childhood**, Community Playthings, May 2017

**Spotlight: International Festival of Childhood**, Early Years Educator, February 2017

**The Unique Child, the impact of culture and the nurturing of Wellbeing**, WATCH Conference, March 2016

**Senior Reviewer of the 'Quality in Early Childhood Education' International Review and Guide for Policymakers'**  
Qatar Foundation World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), Oct 2015

**Towards an Integrated Understanding of the Child**, Save Childhood Movement, April, 2015

**Measuring what really matters**, Early Years Educator, March 2015

**A Need for Balanced Evidence**, Early Years Educator, December 2014

**Time to Listen to Fresh Advice** - Early Years Educator, Sept 2014

**Children as Citizens with Developmental Rights** - Early Years Educator, June 2014

**The Call of the Wild**, Nursery Management, June 2014

**Putting Children First**, Save Childhood Movement, March 2014

**Focus on Foundations** - Report Journal - Association of Teachers and Lecturers, Jan 2013

**It is time for something new?** - Early Years Educator - Dec 2013

**Looking back not forwards?** - Early Years Educator, Sept 2013

**Too Many Assessments** - The Telegraph, Sept 2013

**The Erosion of Childhood** - International Montessori Journal - January 2013

**Save Childhood** - Smalltalk, Winter 2012

**The Digital Dilemma** - Juno Parenting Magazine - Autumn 2012

**The Erosion of Childhood** - Giddy Limits, Oct 2012

**Combatting the Erosion of Childhood** - Opinion Piece - Early Years Educator - August 2012

**Just who is making the policies?** - Opinion Piece - Early Years Educator - March 2012

**The Democratisation of Learning** - Chapter in the book 'Too, Much, Too Soon?' Hawthorn Press - Sept 2011

**The Need for Educational Diversity** - Opinion Piece - Early Years Educator - May 2011

**What do they mean by 'Readiness'?** - Opinion Piece - Early Years Educator - March 2011

**Opening the Whole** - Holistic Science Journal - Second edition, Autumn 2010

**A Science of Learning: New approaches to thinking about creativity** - Demos collection on Creativity and education 'Born Creative' - October 2010

**The Essence of Creativity**, Smalltalk, October 2010



# Wendy Ellyatt

CATALYST AND CHANGEMAKER

## Writing

A New Kind of Wealth Series - The Cheltonian Magazine - December 2009  
A New Kind of Wealth Series - The Cheltonian Magazine - November 2009  
A New Kind of Wealth Series - The Cheltonian Magazine - October 2009  
A New Kind of Wealth Series - The Cheltonian Magazine - September 2009  
Learning and Development - 'Free Ways' - Nursery World - 3rd Sept 2009  
A New kind of Wealth Series - The Cheltonian Magazine - August 2009  
Learning and Development- 'Own Goals' - Nursery World - 15th July 2009  
A New kind of Wealth Series - The Cheltonian Magazine - July 2009  
Early Childhood and English Obsessions - Early Years Educator - July 2009  
The View from the Mountain - Ancient and Indigenous Perspectives - Caduceus Magazine, Winter 2008  
International Perspectives - The Isha Homeschool, Montessori International, Issue 85, July-Dec, 2007  
Children, Nature and Wholeness - Montessori International, Issue 83, April-June, 2007  
Creating a loving community through art and imagination - Early Years Educator, October 2004  
The Influences that shape the mind of the Newborn - Early Years Educator, July 2004  
When Families Change - Montessori International, Issue 72, July-Dec, 2004  
Health and Wholeness - Montessori International, Issue 71, April-June, 2004  
Happy Learners Become Confident, Successful People - Early Years Educator, June 2004  
Six month series on Montessori Philosophy Early Years Educator, Jan - June 2004  
Words you need to know - Practical Professional Child Care - May 2004  
Children need to be able to develop naturally - Early Years Educator, April 2004  
The Parent's Guide to Montessori (key publication provided to parents throughout the UK), Montessori Centre International, Jan 2004  
The under threes: creating a Montessori home, Montessori International, Issue 68, July - September 2003  
A celebration of the family - Montessori International, Issue 68, July - September 2003  
Social and Emotional Intelligence - Montessori International, Issue 66, Jan-March 2003  
Approaches to an Early Years Curriculum - Montessori International, Issue 65, Oct-Dec 2002  
Learning More about the Vital Role of Play and Playfulness - Paths of Learning , Issue 14, Autumn, 2002  
Learning More about the Power of Narrative and Storytelling - Paths of Learning, Issue 14, Autumn, 2002  
Understanding the Prisoner Within - Paths of Learning, Issue 13, Summer 2002  
Contemplative Practices in Education - Paths of Learning, Issue 13, Summer 2002  
Natural Freedom - Montessori International, Issue 64, July-Sept 2002  
Teaching for the Soul - Paths of Learning, Issue 12, Spring 2002  
Spirituality and Education - Paths of Learning, Issue 12, Spring 2002  
Montessori - Some thoughts for the Future - Montessori International, Issue 63, April-June 2002  
Education for Peace- Montessori International, Issue 62, Jan-March 2002  
The Spiritual Essence of Childhood - Montessori International, Issue 60, July-Sept 2001  
Nurturing the Parent - Montessori International - Issue 59, April-June 2001



# Wendy Ellyatt

CATALYST AND CHANGEMAKER

## Writing

The Spiritual Essence of the Child - Paths of learning, Autumn 2001

Do you really work in a Montessori school? - Montessori Education -Vol 8, No 5, Spring 1998

A Celebration of Diversity - Montessori International, Vol 10, No 4, Winter 2001

Exploring Natural Childhood - Paths of Learning, Summer 2001

Children of the Millennium - Montessori International, Vol 9, No 6, Winter 2000

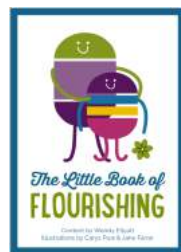
The Mathematical Mind - Montessori International, Vol 9, No 5, Autumn 1999

Reggio Emilia - Montessori International, Vol 9, No 2, Winter 1999

Uniting for the Sake of Childhood - Montessori International, Vol 9, No 2, Winter 1999

The impact of China's One Child policy - Montessori Education, Vol 9, No 1, Autumn 1998

In the Spirit of Te Whariki : New Zealand's Early Childhood Curriculum -Montessori Education, Vol 8, No 6, Summer 1998



OPENING THE WHOLE  
by Wendy Ellyatt





# Wendy Ellyatt

CATALYST AND CHANGEMAKER

## Speaking, Conferences and Seminars

**Expert Participant- Compassionate Cities Roundtable, Parliament of World Religions, Toronto, 4th November 2018**

**Expert Commentator, Independent Jersey Care Inquiry Report Citizens Panel , 27th May, 2018**

**Keynote Speaker 'Mind, Body and Soul - Let's talk about Children's Wellbeing' Conference, Campden Integrated Early Years Service, 16th March, 2017**

**Expert Panel participant, ENABLE Conference, London, 8th March, 2017**

**Sky TV - discussing the foundations of happiness and wellbeing 24/01/17**

**BBC Breakfast TV - discussing the book 'The Happiest Kids in the World' 24/01/17**

**Keynote speaker 'The Unique Child, the impact of culture and how we foster human wellbeing' - What About the Children (WATCH) Conference, March 2016**

**Keynote speaker 'Creating Waves as Leaders', Reading Headteachers Conference, Oct, 2015**

**Expert Participant 'Are the Kids Alright?' Labour Party Conference - panel discussion with Lucy Powell, Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Sharon Hodgson, Shadow Minister for Children, Mary Bousted, General Secretary of ATL and John Cameron, Head of Helplines, NSPCC - Chaired by Guardian journalist Zoe Williams, Sept 2015'**

**Expert Participant 'Are the Kids Alright?' Green Party Conference - panel discussion with Natalie Bennett, Leader of the party and Christine Blower, General Secretary of the NUT, Sept 2015**

**Keynote speaker 'Putting Children First - Societal Wellbeing and the Challenges of Modern Childhood' London Early Years Forum, March 2015**

**Panel member, Debating Digital Childhoods Seminar, London Metropolitan University, Sept 2014**

**ITV Breakfast News and Sky TV, discussing the UK school starting age and early assessments, 01/04/2014**

**Chair of the Flourish Summit - 'Early Childhood and the Science of Wellbeing', London Friends House April 2013**

**Chair of Conference Panel, The Child - The True Foundation, OPENEYE Conference, BAECE Resource Centre, London June 12th, 2010**

**Keynote Speaker, Connect Transitions - a new model for contemporary community, SURE - Sustainable Urban and Rural Europe - Conference, Krakow, Poland, 20-21 May, 2010**

**Keynote speaker, Early Years Education and Care - International Perspectives, Open EYE Policy Seminar, British Association of Early Years Education (BAECE), 4th Oct 2008**

**Keynote speaker, Empathy and Interconnectivity - A New Focus, 8th International Conference on Education, Spirituality and the Whole Child, University of Surrey, Roehampton, UK, June 22&23rd 2001**

Choose Less, Choose Quiet, Choose Meaning, Choose Family