



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

FinlandWay®



EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
FINLAND

**Jonna Kangas**  
PhD of Education

**University Lecturer of Early Childhood Education**  
**Joint member of the Playful Learning Center Laboratory**  
**Faculty of Educational Science, Helsinki University**

**Co-founder of FinlandWay Preschool System**

Dr Jonna Kangas (University of Helsinki) is a leading Finnish researcher in Early Education and top contributor to the Play-based Participatory Learning theory and methodology from Finland.

She is co-founder and Education Expert of WellEdu Fennica Ltd, responsible for the curriculum and teacher training programme design for FinlandWay Preschool System being adapted to Brazil, Peru, Morocco and Vietnam.

She holds a position of a senior Lecturer at the Teacher training department and joint member of Playful Learning Centre, University of Helsinki, with responsibilities with basic and advanced level educational studies including Pre- and basic education studies, Mathematics, Action based pedagogy and Curriculum studies in bachelors' program. Multicultural comparative curriculum studies, Critical approach studies and Sociology of play in the masters' program. She is a postdoctoral researcher and author on child participation, self-regulation, play-based learning and pedagogical methods in Finnish Early Childhood Education. Dr Kangas has trained hundreds of Finnish early educators in daily pedagogics, children's learning processes, observation and documentation, and designed innovative teacher training and mentoring programs for online platforms. She has years of operational kindergarten management and curriculum execution experience from private preschools in the Helsinki capital region.

Through her research funded by the Finnish Ministry of Social and Health Affairs and the Capital Region of Finland and later the Finnish Agency of Education, Dr Kangas has since 2010 designed interventions and learning experiences and environments to support children's participation, play based learning, and teacher professional reflection and development in education settings and contributed to the National ECE assessment methodology by the Finnish Education Evaluation Center. Dr Kangas has published in leading international education journals. She is a member of Playful learning center and Learning, Culture and Interventions (LECI) expert groups which are devoted to advancing high-quality research, and research-based teaching and societal interaction at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki.

Dr Kangas is a Board Member of the Early Childhood Education Association of Finland (ECEAF), where she heads the editorial team on publications on participatory learning. She has spoken about the play-based methodology, phenomenon-based approach and curriculum and shaping, developing and (re)forming Early Childhood Education in Finland in several international conferences and workshops.

Some of Dr Kangas' highlighted publications:

- Kangas, J., Harju-Luukkainen, H. K., Brotherus, A. M., Gearon, L., & Kuusisto, S. A. E. (2019). Playing to Learn in Finland: Early Childhood Curricular and Operational Context. In S. Garvis, & S. Phillipson (eds.), *Policification of Childhood: Early Childhood Education in the 21st Century* (Vol 3). Routledge.
- Kangas, J. & Reunamo, J. (2019). Action Telling method: From storytelling to crafting the future. In K. J. Kerry-Moran, & J-A. Aerila (Eds.), *Story in Children's Lives: Contributions of the Narrative Mode to Early Childhood Development, Literacy, and Learning* (pp. 113-128). (Educating the Young Child; Vol. 16). Cham: Springer.
- Kangas, J., Venninen, T., & Ojala, M. (2016). Educators' perceptions of facilitating children's participation in early childhood education. *Australasian journal of early childhood*, 41(2), 85-94.

