



ILC  
International House  
Brno

# The Young Ones Conference

*Nurturing young minds and  
empowering educators*

November

**9th 2024**



# General Info



**ILC**  
**International House**  
Brno

## Publishers

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**megabooks**

## Restaurant

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# General Info

## On Arrival

The entrance foyer of the school will be used for registration. The seminar rooms are on the first and second floors.

## Registration

Please note that there are a limited number of places available so register now at: [The Young Ones Conference](#)  
This conference is accredited by the Czech Ministry of Education.

## Other Information

Drinks and refreshments will be provided on the first floor.  
There will be displays by a number of publishing companies.

## The venue

### ILC International House Brno

Language school  
Sukova 2, 602 00 Brno  
T: (+420) 736 726 302;  
[www.ilcbrno.cz](http://www.ilcbrno.cz), [info@ilcbrno.cz](mailto:info@ilcbrno.cz)



# Conference Schedule

08:00 - 08:45 Registration

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08:45 - 09:45 Morning Sessions 1

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**Room 1**

Pavla Milerski, ILC International House Brno

**Effective Revision Activities with Minimal Preparation**

**Room 2**

Vladka Skopcová, Macmillan Education

**Grammar and Vocabulary in Games for the Lower Primary**

**Room 3**

Anna Sigmund, ILC International House Brno

**Draw it. Cut it. Glue it.**

**Room 9**

Sylvie Doláková, Freelance Teacher, Teacher Trainer

**Let's Play, Let's Move!**

09:45 - 10:00 Break & Publisher's Exhibition

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10:00 - 11:00 Morning Sessions 2

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**Room 1**

Ben Herbert, British Council

**Pronunciation Games**

**Room 2**

Vladka Skopcová, Macmillan Education

**Cool Graded Activities for Teens**

**Room 3**

Šárka Cox, Masaryk University

**Grammar (Hammer) Time**

**Room 9**

Pete Nobbs, ILC International House Brno

**Ice to Meet You**

11:00 - 12:15 Lunch & Publisher's Exhibition

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# Conference Schedule

## 12:30 - 13:30 Afternoon Sessions 1

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### Room 1

Sabrina Bottai, ILC International House Brno  
**An Activity Bag for Young Learners**

### Room 2

Vendula Smith, ZŠ Didaktis  
**Zero Preparation Activities**

### Room 3

Šárka Cox, Masaryk University  
**Grammar (Hammer) Time**

### Room 9

Pete Nobbs, ILC International House Brno  
**Ice to Meet You**

## 13:30 - 13:45 Break & Publisher's Exhibition

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## 13:45 - 14:45 Afternoon Sessions 2

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### Room 1

Ben Herbert, British Council  
**Pronunciation Games**

### Room 2

Ceilidh Leisure, Freelance Teacher  
**Beyond Textbooks: Engaging students using real literature**

### Room 3

Fernanda Borba, ILC International House Brno  
**Origami + English = Perfect Practice Combination!**

### Room 9

Martina Weissbergerová, Oxford University Press  
**Learning Through Play**

## 15:00 - 16:00 Q&A drinks and raffle

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# The Abstracts - Room 1

## Effective Revision Activities with Minimal Preparation

08:45 - 09:45

**Pavla Milerski, ILC International House Brno**

Do your students rush through Use of English exercises when getting ready for exams? How can we make exam practice more enjoyable? In this session you will experience practical activities that help students remember useful chunks of language and make the language their own. All activities are easily transferable to any vocabulary or grammar revision lessons.



**Pavla Milerski** is an English teacher, teacher trainer, educational consultant and Cambridge English oral examiner. She has extensive experience of teaching young learners, teenagers and adults in the Czech Republic and abroad. As an educational consultant she helps facilitate project weeks and project days at local schools and provides training for teachers. Pavla's passion lies in sharing methodology tips with both teachers and students to enjoy a mutually inspiring learning environment.

## Pronunciation Games

10:00 - 11:00

13:45 - 14:45

**Ben Herbert, British Council**

Teaching pronunciation is an important part of language teaching, and yet it can be overlooked as teachers often feel that choral drilling can be quite repetitive. This session will look at some adaptable and low-preparation pronunciation games which can be used to make the teaching of pronunciation more varied and therefore motivating for learners.



**Ben Herbert** has been a teacher for over 14 years and has worked in the Czech Republic, Jordan, Libya, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. He has experience teaching nearly all age groups and abilities, including work in elementary schools around Prague. In addition to this, he also works as a CELTA trainer.

# The Abstracts - Room 1

## An Activity Bag for Young Learners

Sabrina Bottai, ILC International House Brno

12:30 - 13:30

Is your activity bag running low on ideas? Join us, and you'll walk away with a collection of exciting activities that you can implement right away! You'll discover a variety of fun group activities and games that require minimal preparation. These resources are perfect for revising vocabulary and simple grammar structures with young learners in primary school, ranging from pre-A1 to pre-intermediate levels.



**Sabrina Bottai** is a TEFL graduate from Saint Bartholomew's teacher training college in Rosario, Argentina and a CELTA qualified English teacher. She taught English in Argentina for many years in a variety of contexts and to students of different ages, from young learners to adults. She has also worked as a Spanish assistant teacher in England for a few years before joining ILC IH Brno in 2023.

# The Abstracts - Room 2

## Grammar and Vocabulary in Games for the Lower Primary

08:45 - 09:45

Vladka Skopcová, Macmillan Education

Are you facing a dilemma on how to present and practice grammar and vocabulary in a fun and engaging way? Join us to explore interesting contexts, playful methods, and communicative activities that will captivate your pupils. This hands-on workshop will provide you with the opportunity to relax, enjoy, and incorporate games into your teaching.

## Cool Graded Activities for Teens

10:00 - 11:00

Vladka Skopcová, Macmillan Education

Do you often find that some of your students struggle because an activity is too demanding, while others aren't challenged enough? This happens in class on a daily basis. In this hands-on workshop, we will explore activities, strategies, and games designed to engage all students, ensuring everyone has a role and can have fun.



**Vladka Skopcová** is an English teacher, teacher trainer, and Cambridge English oral examiner with over 20 years of experience teaching both young learners and adults in diverse settings. She holds the Cambridge CELTA and DELTA certifications. Vladka divides her time between teaching and teacher training. Currently, she teaches at a private language school and an alternative primary school. As a teacher trainer, she prepares sessions for various audiences and collaborates with Macmillan Education, the National Pedagogical Institute, and several state and private schools.

## Zero Preparation Activities

12:30 - 13:30

Vendula Smith, ZŠ Didaktis

Are you sometimes too busy to plan? Have you been asked to cover a lesson at the last minute? Or are you simply looking for new activities to try with your primary students? This session is for you! I'll share my favorite activities for practicing vocabulary, speaking, and grammar that require little to no preparation. We'll also discuss how to adapt these activities for mixed levels and various age groups.



**Vendula Smith** has been teaching for over 20 years, and while she gets older, her students keep getting younger. For the past three years, she has been working at ZS Didaktis, a primary school in Brno. Her aim is to spark interest in English learning and equip her students with the tools to learn both inside and outside the classroom. She strives to make her lessons engaging, student-centered, and differentiated so that every child feels safe, happy, and able to reach their full potential.



## Beyond Textbooks: Engaging students using real literature

Ceilidh Leisure, Freelance Teacher

13:45 - 14:45

From classics like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Snowman*, to the more modern favourites *Supertato* and *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*, books and stories have a way of capturing students' attention. In this session, we will consider how to use authentic English and American literature when teaching English to second language learners. Linking to the Cambridge Starters, Movers and Flyers programs, we will explore a range of texts at each level and you will leave the workshop with lots of activities and ideas to use in your classroom.



**Ceilidh Leisure** is an enthusiastic teacher with 13 years of teaching experience all over Europe including England, France and Italy. She has a degree in Primary Education and a Masters degree in Children's Literature. More importantly though, she is passionate about sharing her love of books with her students. She taught for 3 years in Brno and has just moved to Central Bohemia where she is working both as a freelance teacher, and is starting her own children's literacy business.

# The Abstracts - Room 3

## Draw it. Cut it. Glue it.

08:45 - 09:45

**Anna Sigmund, ILC International House Brno**

Do you like making things? Well our students sure do! Why should we incorporate arts & crafts into our lessons? Not only is it FUN, it also offers many benefits which we will discuss. Let's talk about some useful activities and create something you can take back to your lessons.



**Anna Sigmund** has been teaching on and off since 2016 when she got her TrinityCert TESOL. She's currently teaching all kinds of classes from young learners to exam preparation courses. She has completed some developmental courses including the IH COLT (for teaching online) and Teaching Cambridge Exams Classes. For the past few years, she's been mentoring newcomers to ILC IH Brno.

## Grammar (Hammer) Time

**Šárka Cox, Masaryk University**

10:00 - 11:00

12:30 - 13:30

Teaching grammar – piece of cake. This practical workshop contains a lesson demonstrating some of the principles of teaching grammar to teenagers. Namely, we'll be focusing on increasing student engagement and interaction during a grammar lesson to help maximize the use of the target language structures.

The session is aimed at ages: from 13 to 18, levels: from B1 to C1



**Šárka Cox** is an English teacher, teacher trainer and Cambridge speaking examiner. She has taught English for over 25 years, worked for IH ILC Brno and trained teachers in Czech, Slovakia, Poland, Turkey and the UK. Currently, she works at the English department of the Faculty of Education at Masaryk University. She holds a Master's degree in education and the Trinity College Diploma in TESOL.



## Origami + English = Perfect Practice Combination!

**Fernanda Borba**, ILC International House Brno

13:45 - 14:45

Have you ever wondered how a simple piece of paper can become a powerful learning tool? Join us as we explore the art of origami—an engaging method for practising English language skills. Participants will discover how the creative process of folding paper can enhance vocabulary, boost listening and speaking abilities, and foster interactive learning. By following step-by-step instructions and collaborating, learners will engage with essential language components like imperatives, descriptive adjectives, and spatial prepositions. This workshop is ideal for language educators, tutors, and anyone interested in creative approaches to teaching.



**Fernanda Borba** is a CELTA and IH CYLT qualified English teacher and recently she has taken the role of the Deputy Managing Director and Deputy Director of Studies at ILC IH Brno. She has been teaching a variety of age groups and levels for 20 years and has recently been involved in educational management. She originally comes from Brazil but she has lived in and visited many English speaking countries, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, England and South Africa. She has also worked as a teacher trainer in Brazil.

# The Abstracts - Room 9

## Let's Play, Let's Move!

Sylvie Doláková, Freelance Teacher, Teacher Trainer

08:45 - 09:45

Teaching English to young learners should include essential aspects, such as movement and enthusiasm. In action games, children become immersed in the game's theme and completely forget they are using a foreign language. Action games (group, circle, or line games), clapping games, and other rhythmic activities not only motivate children to participate eagerly but also develop essential skills such as listening, speaking, vocabulary, phrases, grammar, concentration, memory, and fair play.

Let's explore a few examples that will keep your students on their toes and have them shouting, "Once again, please!"



**Sylvie Doláková** is a teacher trainer who focuses on working with children aged 4 – 15, with more than 25 years of experience. Specialising in teaching English through art and stories, she also publishes books and story-based teaching sets for children (Pearson ELT Teachers' Award for the best innovation). She presents at conferences and webinars all around the world and has also worked as an ELT consultant (NILE Norwich, British Council etc.).

## Ice to Meet You

Pete Nobbs, ILC International House Brno

10:00 - 11:00

12:30 - 13:30

Meeting a new class for the first time can be daunting but learning about your students' needs, abilities and interests is vital for the creation of a positive classroom atmosphere. Discover a variety of engaging activities tailored for different age groups and proficiency levels, designed to help students connect and communicate. With minimal preparation required, you'll learn practical, low-effort exercises that make introductions fun and effective. Perfect for busy teachers aiming to build a cohesive and interactive learning environment from day one!



**Pete Nobbs** is a teacher and occasional teacher trainer based in Brno. He works for ILC International House Brno, Gymnazium Kpt. Jarose and Masaryk University. He has over 20 years of classroom experience working with Young Learners around the world. His teaching experience ranges from young learners to adults of all language levels and competences, and his teacher training experience includes training on the IHCYLT.



## Learning Through Play

Martina Weissbergerová, Oxford University Press

13:45 - 14:45

Not long ago, 'learning' and 'play' were seen as opposites. This presentation will demonstrate how to combine these two concepts to support your language learners. We'll explore the benefits of incorporating play in the classroom, discuss potential challenges, and share strategies to overcome them. Throughout the session, you'll find plenty of practical ideas to implement in your classes.



**Martina Weissbergerová** has been an Educational Representative for Oxford University Press since February 2022. She studied English Philology at the University of Ostrava and has taught English at various language schools, primarily focusing on beginners. Additionally, Martina has tutored high school and private students, mostly online.

# Our Services

## Intensives



An intensive English language course designed to prepare students for Cambridge English exams, improving their skills across all language areas in a year.

## Children and Teenagers



Our expanding range of courses for children and teenagers includes general English, exam preparation, conversation classes, summer school, all taught in a supportive, cooperative environment tailored to each learner's age and level.

## Exam Preparation



We are one of Brno's top schools for Cambridge exam preparation (KET, PET, FCE, CAE, CPE), offering internationally certified teachers, two included mock exams, and extensive support for self-study and homework.

## Adults



English courses for adults include general English, exam preparation, conversation classes.

## Associate Schools



Our Associate Schools program supports local schools across South Moravia with a range of services, including teaching for kids, and special projects.

## Conferences



We host two major conferences each year, among the largest and most anticipated English teacher events in the Czech Republic.

## Company Courses



Company courses are customized to meet company needs, offered on-site or at our Brno location, with flexible scheduling and regular progress monitoring.

## Individual Courses



Individual courses offer the most effective way to learn a language, providing high efficiency and tailored focus on specific needs like international conferences, product presentations, or conference calls. Options also include German, French, and Czech for foreigners.

# Thanks again from ILC IH Brno!

## ILC International House Brno

Language School

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