

## Speaker Profile

### Alison Keith

Ph.D., Play Therapist and DDP Practitioner,  
Consultant and Trainer, DDP Connects UK  
Director

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Alison worked for a number of years as a Residential Social Worker and in a woman's refuge and family center. After training to be a Play Therapist she began working with children in the care system and adopted children and their families in the British National Health Service. Alison was first trained by Dan Hughes in 2001 and is a certified Practitioner, Consultant and Trainer in DDP. Alison now practices independently offering consultation, training, therapy and supervision to adoptive and foster families as well as their professional networks. Since meeting Dan in 2001 Alison has been passionate about DDP and is honoured to be a Director of DDP connects UK.

### Vicky Sutton

BSc (Hons), PsychD, CPsychol

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Dr. Vicky Sutton is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist who is also registered with the Health Professionals Council (HPC). Since qualifying in 2005, she has specialised in working with traumatised children, their families and professional networks. Since April 2012, Dr. Sutton has worked exclusively in the private sector providing psychological assessments of children's needs (including attachment/impact of trauma); expert witness assessments and reports for Court; therapeutic interventions; consultation (parents, carers, residential workers, social workers); training and supervision. Vicky is a certified DDP Practitioner, Consultant and Trainer and has presented at DDP Conferences both in the UK and USA. Vicky currently sits on the DDPI Board and is also a Director for DDP Connects UK.

## Session Topics

### Session Topic (Wed., 2 hrs):

#### *Holding On and Hanging In: Two Case Presentations*

Alison and Vicky made a decision to stick by some of the families they were working with for the long journey to recovery; rather than working with more families but for briefer interventions. The cases they are presenting aim to illustrate how "trusting in the process" over time can take you places you never thought possible!

Vicky has been working with an adoptive mother and adolescent for five years. In the beginning, most communication was non-verbal and deep listening required noticing, attuning to and making sense of the powerful messages communicated without language. Over time, the young person was more and more able to find words to describe her experience. Beneath her defences, her mother and I discovered a world rich in meaning, where alongside the pain, hope and love co-existed.

While with the British National Health Service, Alison worked with an 11-year-old boy just placed in foster care, offering DDP sessions to him and his long term foster carer. These sessions continued until he was approximately 13 years old. The foster carer contacted Alison in her private practice when the boy was 16. Social services agreed to fund some DDP sessions due to the difficulties the boy was experiencing in the placement. The relationship Alison had built with the boy and his foster carer years previously enabled her to use the sessions to listen at a deeper level and make sense of the difficulties they were facing. This led to a powerful and meaningful ending of the placement when the boy was 18, but a relationship that would be long lasting.

The presentations, though different, aim to highlight how long term relationships with DDP therapists can provide families with the safety needed to enable them to hold on to these important relationships and hang in their during tough times and see them through to adulthood.

KidsTLC, in collaboration with the DDP Institute, presents:



*The Power of Deep Listening to  
Heal, Connect and Transform:  
Insights from DDP and Beyond*



Session order tbd