

**John Swinney - Keynote**

Deputy First Minister of Scotland and the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

**Suzanne Zeedyk - Keynote**

Dr Suzanne Zeedyk is a research scientist fascinated by babies' inborn capacity to communicate. Since 1993, she has been based at the University of Dundee, within the School of Psychology. In 2011, she set up her own independent training enterprise to disseminate more widely the science of the early years. She now spends much of her time speaking to the public about our human need for emotional and physiological connection. She is able to bring to this her research expertise on topics including parent-infant relationships, family support, communicative disorders, and the socio-political contexts that frame our responses to scientific information. She works closely with organisations throughout the world to increase awareness of the decisions we take about caring for children, illuminating the way in which those decisions are integrally connected to our vision for the kind of society we wish to build.

**David Cameron – Conference Chair**

David Cameron has established himself as a leading voice in education. He has led reviews and presented at conferences in Scotland, across the UK and internationally, working with teachers, parents and governors. David has extensive experience as a teacher, a senior manager in schools and in local authorities, most recently as Director of Children's Services for Stirling Council. David has supported STEP for many years and his passion for education combined with his extensive knowledge and sense of humour have provided STEP with a hugely popular conference chair. He can be contacted at [therealdavidcameron@gmail.com](mailto:therealdavidcameron@gmail.com)