Seminar overview
The Pedagogies of Educational Transitions [POET] project is a four-year (2013-2016), International Research Staff Exchange Scheme, bringing together researchers from Mälardalen University, Sweden, University of Strathclyde, Scotland, University of Iceland, Iceland, Charles Sturt University, Australia and University of Waikato, New Zealand. The Scottish element of this project is titled 'Transitions as Tools for Change': the focus is on three strands: children’s transitions journeys, family engagement and practitioner beliefs and practices. These seminars sessions highlight some of the work of the Scottish POET team and weave a story of transitions in Scotland.

Kirsten Thomson: Preschool-primary transitions
Kirsten Thomson will present on her study which reports on the perspectives of 40 children from two different pre-school provisions in Scotland, about what is important to them in the transition to school. The results are categorised into emerging themes such as familiarisation, independence, friendships, difference in pedagogy and communication between all stakeholders.
Kirsten Thomson is a teacher and Med student at the School of Education, University of Strathclyde.

Professor Aline-Wendy Dunlop: Taking Learning to School: Informing theories
Professor Dunlop will present findings on her study which found that shifting the lens through which children’s early childhood experiences are observed has the potential to challenge pre-determined notions of ‘readiness’ and bridge learning into school more effectively. Greater curricular cooperation between early learning and childcare practitioners and first stage school teachers promises an opportunity for children to build on what they know and do as they start school.
Professor Aline-Wendy Dunlop is Emeritus Professor in the School of Education, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.

Dr Lynn McNair: Rules, rules, rules and we’re not allowed to skip’: Listening to young children’s perspectives on transition
Using the wealth of the research from POET (Pedagogies of Educational Transitions), Dr McNair will discuss her thesis that is located within the field of Childhood Studies and draws on anthropology, philosophy, psychology and sociology where she argues that where there was totalising power there was evidence of resistance.
Dr Lynn McNair is Head of Cowgate Under-Fives Centre in Edinburgh, Teaching Associate at University of Edinburgh and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Strathclyde.