**Dr. Döndü Derya Durmaz**

**Educational Background**

* **PhD in Early Childhood Studies**, University of Warwick (2011)
* **MA in Early Childhood Studies**, University of Leeds (2002)
* **BA in Psychological Counselling and Guidance**, Inonu University

**Additional Courses and Trainings**

* **Child Care and Early Education** (Level 3)
* **Child Psychology** (Level 3)
* **Sensory Integration** (Levels 1, 2, 3)
* **DIR Floortime** (101, 201, 202, 203)
* **Leadership in the Early Years** (Enfield Council Early Years Training Team)
* **Leading Best Autism Practice** (Enfield Council Early Years Training Team)
* **Neurodiversity and Autism** (Enfield Council Early Years Training Team)

**Ongoing / Registered Trainings and Courses**

* **MA in Neuroscience in Education**, starting September 2024, University College London (UCL)
* **DIR Floortime 204 Expert Training Leader**, starting January 2025

**Professional Experience**

* Worked as a Psychological Counsellor and Psychology Teacher at a prestigious high school in Turkey
* Founded **Moonchild Education Ltd.** in 2007; became a private company in 2012 with Mustafa Durmaz as a joint partner

**Services provided by Moonchild Education Ltd.:**

* + Tuition Centre
	+ Special Education Needs Department
	+ Child Care
	+ Adult and Parent Training in Special Education Needs

**Membership**

* NASEN (National Association of Special Education Needs)

**Publications**

1. **Aubrey, Carol, and Durmaz, Döndü** (2015). "The Relationship between Policy and Practice in the Early Years Mathematics Curriculum for Reception Class Children in England." In *Mathematics and Transition to School: International Perspectives* (Early Mathematics Learning and Development). Edited by Perry, Bob; Macdonald, Amy, and Gervasoni, Ann. Published by Springer, Australia.
2. **Aubrey, Carol, and Durmaz, Döndü** (2012). "Policy-to-practice contexts for early childhood mathematics in England." *International Journal of Early Years Education*, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 59-77.
3. **Aubrey, Carol, and Durmaz, Dondu** (2009). "Still Not Getting It Right from the Start?" In *Teaching and Learning Early Number*. Edited by Thompson, Ian. Second edition. Published by Open University Press, 2009.
4. **COMING SOON**: "Comparing the Teacher Candidates' Attitudes Towards their Future Job Teaching in Turkey" (2024).

**Awards and Recognitions**

* **Education Volunteers (Eğitim Gönüllüleri) Award** by EL-COM (2015)
* **The Best Female Role Model in the Turkish Community** by CEFTUS (2018)
* Chaired **DEM-DER Charity** (2018-2019), awarded **Best Charity** by CEFTUS (2018)

**Community Involvement**

* Participates in various charity and community events
* Supports MacMillan Cancer Research Centre
* Organizes events and fundraises for cancer patients
* Provides free advice and guidance for families with Special Education Needs children for four hours weekly

**Personal Life**

* Married to Lecturer Mustafa Durmaz, with two children, Aybala and Guven
* Enjoys going to the gym, long walks with her dog Milo, gardening, and solving sudoku puzzles
* Won her battle with breast cancer, which motivates her work ethic and dedication

**Mission**

Dr. Durmaz is dedicated to connecting families and schools to improve children's education and lives, especially helping those with language barriers and SEND children who are isolated and struggling with educational needs.