



Silke Durm, MA

**FINE Training UK Faculty Member, CPCAB Counselling and Psychotherapy Student (Level 4)
Candidate for Election to the NFI Board of Directors**

I am truly honored to have been nominated for election to the NFI Board of Directors.

Over the past two and a half years, I have been a member of the FINE Faculty Team in the UK. During this time, together with my parent colleague, I have reshaped the language we use when speaking about parents and their children and rewritten the curriculum on parent involvement in the NICU. I am deeply committed to sharing the perspective of a parent within the context of neurodevelopmental care. My goal is to transform how we communicate in the NICU, fostering genuine partnerships between parents and staff that benefit not only the preterm infants but also their parents and the healthcare team.

In addition to my role on the FINE UK Faculty Team, I am also part of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM) Developmental Care Group, where I contribute to the development of the new BAPM Developmental Care Framework in the UK. The remainder of my time is dedicated to my counselling and psychotherapy studies, with the goal of becoming a counsellor for families who are experiencing the NICU journey.

Being a mother of three children, two of whom were born prematurely, has profoundly impacted my life and career. It has taught me the fragility and brevity of life, and the importance of forming close bonds with our children to nurture and support their development from the moment they are born. My personal experience, coupled with my desire for all families to have the positive experience I had in a NICU thanks to NIDCAP, fuels my passion to ensure that families, their preterm babies, and the professionals have access to NIDCAP worldwide.

As a board member, my goal would be to raise awareness of Neurodevelopmental Care and NIDCAP as the gold standard of care among families and healthcare professionals, particularly neonatologists. I believe that reaching those who are emotionally connected to preterm babies and those in decision-making positions is crucial for the increase in NIDCAP care, leading to better short and long-term outcomes for more preterm babies and their families.

It would be an honor to serve the NFI and contribute to its mission of bringing NIDCAP care to infants, families, and healthcare professionals near and far.