

8th National Conference – Online Workshops



Thursday 20 May

Workshop Series 1 - 11.15 am

Supporting complex language development in preschool children

Vocabulary learning and complex language production is a critical foundation for 3-5 year old children and important for later reading comprehension. This workshop will discuss language development expectations and provide techniques and practical strategies to promote language learning in the home and in early childhood education settings.

Presenter

Jennie Cusitier

*Paediatric Team Leader Speech Pathology
Rainbow Cottage, Liverpool Hospital*

Jennie is a self-professed literacy warrior, currently completing her PhD in pre-literacy interventions for at-risk children.

250 stories before Christmas

The presentation will explore how the Children & Family Services Interagency Champions group in Wollongong NSW took the information from their 2018 AEDC and developed this project, what resources they developed and how the pilot has gone within a variety of Early Childhood Organisations.

Presenters

Michelle Toms

Michelle is an Indigenous woman from the South Coast of NSW. She has been in Local government for just over 2 years and her primary role is Community Engagement. Michelle is passionate about Indigenous lives, and advocates for their injustices.

Tracey Kirk-Downey

Tracey has been in the early childhood sector for over 30 year. She is passionate about the early years She holds the position of the Children & Family Services Community Development Worker at Wollongong City Council.

Workshop Series 2 - 3.30 pm

Time to play: Enhancing opportunities to support early development and literacy for children and families who have experienced refugee trauma

Children from all cultures play. It forms the foundation of how children develop physically, socially and emotionally, interact and learn. Many children from refugee backgrounds have had disruption to their development due to trauma, and families may not know the best way to support their children with these issues. This interactive experiential workshop will also address issues of engaging parents and grandparents in exploring the stories, songs and games families have in their own culture that address development and trauma related issues. Participants will use a variety of mediums such as gross motor and sensorimotor activities, songs, stories and music to explore skills in cultural responsiveness, attuning to the child, managing emotions, limit setting and use of stories in practice. This in turn will enable participants

Reved up for Reading : engaging fathers with picture books

Participants in this workshop will learn more about the wonderful world of books about cars and trucks and things that go – and how to engage fathers with reading using community reading role models who drive, build, lift and shift in their daily work.

Presenters

Margaret Robson Kett

Margaret is a Melbourne-based writer, editor and publisher. As a children's librarian in big and small libraries in Victoria and Western Australia, she has had 40 years of interest in, and accumulated knowledge of, picture books for under 5s. She was a member of the Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program team in WA for seven

to assist the family to remember activities from their own culture, and support their child's development and learning in culturally appropriate ways.

Presenters

Rosemary Signorelli

Rosemary is employed as the Senior Early Childhood Counsellor at STARTTS. She has extensive experience as a music therapist, psychotherapist and occupational therapist across the lifespan and different settings: in early childhood, special education, disability, trauma recovery, adult rehabilitation, and aged care.

Rachelle Coe

Rachelle is a School Liaison Officer at STARTTS. Her role is to build the capacity of schools to support their students and families with refugee experience, with the aim of improving students' school environment and overall participation in learning. Rachelle has particular interests in the use of movement and play opportunities as interventions for children who have experienced trauma.

years, and has been a judge for the Children's Book Council of Australia awards. Margaret writes about children's books for magazines and has a blog 40 Years of Picture Books. In 2019 she published A Construction of Cranes with Kettlestitch Press.

Andrea Folkard is a PTTR Champion from WA – integral in establishing Paint Kwinana REaD and Paint Wanneroo REaD.

Friday 21 May

Workshop Series 3 – 1.00pm

Enhancing early literacy in CALD families: the role of siblings *A journey of creating Aboriginal enriched learning spaces*

The purpose of our workshop is to share our findings from the action-research of our 'Woodville Sib-Links' group, an after-school, mixed-age group to support young family members to improve family and sibling connections. And to discuss the practices we used to enhance early digital literacy within CALD communities and how the siblings were instrumental in that process.

Presenters:

Manik Gadre

Manik is a practicing early childhood teacher with passion for working with children from vulnerable families. She's a proud migrant and is currently working at Woodville Alliance as the project lead on the Integrated Children's Services Project, which is using creative ways to provide early childhood experiences through playgroup and outreach to children and families who would not otherwise have access to early education. She has worked in a variety of early childhood services including Brighter Futures, to better support the families of 'at-risk' children. As an educator, she has extensively worked with CALD community, especially newly arrived families. She's a TAFE academic as well, teaching various courses within early childhood education & care sector. Finally, Manik is a strong advocate for the rights of children from refugee & refuge-like backgrounds.

Stephen Villon

Stephen is a project officer for Woodville Alliance's Strong Minds Program - an early intervention program supporting good mental health & wellbeing of children, young people (up to 18 years) and their families. He has experience working in both the education and not-for-profit sectors. Stephen is passionate about improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people, particularly adolescent boys and young men.

Trina and Stacey will share their journeys on how they have created Aboriginal enriched learning spaces for children 0-12 years.

Trina will share her inspiration on how they have created an outside learning path and area for children with Dalmarri Aboriginal Art.

Participants will come away with practical ideas and suggestions to engage with the local community and authentically share culture with a focus on language and literacy.

Presenters:

Trina Horder *is a Dharug woman, an Early Childhood Teacher and the Cluster Director at Tandara and Carita Children's Centre's. Trina has over 25 years' experience in the Early Childhood field.*

Stacey Horder *is a Dharug woman, an Early Childhood Diploma educator at Jamisontown Children's Centre. Stacey has over 10 years' experience in the Early Childhood field.*

Amanda Collins *is the Children's Services Development Officer at Penrith City Council, an Early Childhood Teacher and Paint Penrith REaD champion and advocate. Amanda has over 25 years' experience in the Early Childhood field supporting families through innovative programs*