

Dear colleagues and friends,

You are invited to unpack our exciting July to November 2010 Training Calendar. We have enhanced the range and locations of training provided in response to your requests and trends throughout the early childhood sector.

The introduction of the Early Years Learning Framework and National Quality Standards has ensured revitalised thinking and reflective practice at all levels of early childhood education and care and we invite you to explore our workshops and be both challenged and inspired. The staff, children and families in your own environment will benefit from your reflection and best practice initiatives.

Some Special and Featured Events that will be presented include:

Claire Warden from forest schools in Scotland presenting 'A Child's Right to be Heard:

Weaving children's voices into meaningful outdoor experiences'. We are thrilled to have Claire with us again in 2010 as she reminds us that we are guardians of the outdoor spaces in which children learn.

We are pleased to welcome Dr Miriam Giugni who challenges us to explore what 'Inclusion' means through the Early Years Learning Framework.

A viewpoint from Kate Jarvis, Aotearoa New Zealand will present meaningful and authentic ways to document children's learning.

Tanya James has a wealth of experience to share with us to support change management and building resilience in children's services. Her very practical workshops will provide both strategies and tools for all participants.

Ric Powell will inspire us with culture, music and games as he takes us on a journey of discovery in the roles and responsibilities of Aboriginal people in both traditional and modern times.

The power of the outdoor environment and the role of nature as an educator build the foundation for Catherine Lee and Jennine Primmer as the connection to children's learning and the Early Years Learning Framework.

Your continued support of Gowrie Training is appreciated and we look forward to engaging with you and offering opportunities for inspiration and best practice.

Should you have any comments, feedback or challenges you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact the Training Team on (02)83457603.



Yours sincerely

Ruth Callaghan

Chief Executive Officer

Contents

Message from CEO.....	1	Inspiring Practice Places.....	10
Featured Events.....	2	Workshop Descriptions.....	12
NSW Rural and Regional Selections	6	Presenter Profiles.....	19

FEATURED EVENTS

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Equity, inclusion and diversity

Inclusion and the Early Years Learning Framework: Different becomings and diverse belongings

Dr. Miriam Giugni

What does inclusion look like in the EYLF? What differences is it making to your practice in terms of inclusion? How are children's 'becomings' more or less inclusive and what kinds of belongings are children experiencing in your programmes? This workshop will explore these questions through examples of practice that engage inclusion within the EYLF. Please bring your copy of the EYLF so that we can share questions and quotes about how to understand it and use it in terms of inclusion.

F	29 Oct	Erskineville	9:00-1:00pm	\$65
---	--------	--------------	-------------	------

Dr. Miriam Giugni began her life in the early childhood community as an untrained assistant. She now has an Associate Diploma in Social Science (Child Studies) from Moss Vale TAFE, Bachelor of Education Early Childhood (Honours), and University of Western Sydney. She recently graduated with her PhD at the University of Melbourne. Miriam enjoys working across many facets of the early childhood community. She is currently teaching at SDN Redfern Children's Education and Care Centre as well as working as an Early Childhood Research and Learning Adviser (across all SDN Children's Education and Care Centres). Miriam teaches at the University of Western Sydney and the University of Canberra and she is an independent consultant. She is passionate about social justice and equity.

Valuing Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures

ICE'T Approach: Aboriginal culture, educational experiences, and games for everyone

Rick Powell

The ICE'T Approach will have you engaged in discovering the roles and responsibilities of Aboriginal people in traditional times and how this knowledge can be used with children of all ages today. Rick strongly believes that we are all responsible for looking after our land and our community. He is a compelling storyteller, sharing his depth of knowledge and understanding from his Aboriginal perspective.

Rick developed the ICE'T Approach, workshop, and learning games to connect children to the world around them. He brings humanity and spirituality to these stories. You will practice games based on animal totems and their characteristics that unfold messages taught in playful and fun ways. Here is feedback from one participant:

Just wanted to let you know that I played the Ant - Marrang game today. I told the children that I had gone to your in-service and had learnt some games. I explained that they were Aboriginal games or Koori games. One child wanted to be the queen ant, and at the end of the game she put up her hand and in the middle of all the noise from the other

children she said, 'You can't hurt them.' She is normally so quiet, I asked her to come and tell everyone why, and she did! Amazing and very exciting, so many positives were gained today.

Come along to this engaging workshop and be inspired to learn more and share this information with children from all age groups. You will learn practical skills, gain competence, and confidence in connecting children and families to the world that surrounds them.

- I liked the way Rick explained the animal's purpose with the Aboriginal culture and how the games are derived. This connects so clearly with the EYLF.
- Rick is a very powerful presenter and advocate, for not only his own people, but all Australians. I am so pleased to have attended and learnt more in this area.
- Rick was great! He provided relevant and meaningful information about his culture that we can take back and put into practise in our centre... Now I can move on from tokenism with a little more confidence.

S	23 Oct	Blacktown	9:00-1:00pm	\$65
S	6 Nov	Castle Hill	9:00-1:00pm	\$65

Rick Powell has years of experience both as the Founder and Director of Southern Cross Cultural Consultants and as an Aboriginal man with a young family of his own. Rick is a powerful presenter who is passionate about connecting children holistically to the world around them by teaching and playing engaging cultural games and stories.

PLANNING, DOCUMENTING AND EVALUATING

Meaningful Documentation for Children and their Families: A viewpoint from Aotearoa New Zealand

Kate Jarvis

A current approach to assessing children's learning in early childhood educational environments is to strive to document 'authentic' examples of learning that are being accomplished. Kate will present an interactive workshop that reflects her belief that we are selective about what we choose to document regarding children's participation in learning environments, as well as whose voices we include in this documentation. This begs the question 'in what ways are some voices silenced whilst others are privileged?' in what we document. Together we will explore what enablers and barriers exist in your early education environments with regards to constructing meaningful documentation for children and their families.

Th	16 Sept	Erskineville	9:30-12:00pm	\$58
----	---------	--------------	--------------	------

Kia ora koutou (hi everyone). **Kate Jarvis** has been involved in various early childhood education roles, including teaching, professional development facilitation, and lecturing in Aotearoa New Zealand. Her involvement in the parent co-operative movement, Playcentre, provided her with a springboard into furthering her own education. After recently graduating with her Master of Arts (Education) from the University of Otago College of Education, Kate has arrived in Sydney to further her experiences of early childhood education in a new context.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Rich, diverse experiences to promote learning and development

CHILDREN IN NATURE: THE POWER OF OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

This seminar will feature two presentations on transforming outdoor environments.

The Other Classroom: Transforming outdoor environments

Jennine Primmer

Heeding contemporary research into play environments for children, and influenced by UNICEF's Convention on the Rights of the Child, Illawarra Children's Services (ICS) have joined an internationally-recognised revolution in the way children's play environments are being designed, utilised and respected as 'the other classroom.' This workshop will tell the story of ICS's journey to transform five existing outdoor environments into engaging, interesting and challenging natural playspaces.

Jennine will present images of the completed playspaces and talk about how Illawarra Children's Services leaders inspired their teachers, staff and families to join in the experience. She will also discuss effective communication strategies, transitional management and research into why creatively designed, natural environments are better for children's imaginative and social play, and for their learning. ICS's story is inspirational, with five early childhood playspaces created in the Illawarra so far, and more to follow.

Take a Step Outside your Door: Connecting children and families with nature and the EYLF

Catherine Lee

The EYLF recognises the importance of children belonging, to their family and their wider community. This session explores how nature can enhance your children's and family's wellbeing and sense of belonging, being and becoming. Taking a step outside your door will take you on a journey of discovery to see the amazing way incorporating nature and the outdoors in children's lives can connect them to each other, their family, your service and the land. The principles and practices of the EYLF reflect the relationships we can develop with each other and nature.

Th	21 Oct	Corrimal	1:00-5:00pm	\$65
----	--------	----------	-------------	------

Catherine Lee is the Director of The Point Preschool in Oyster Bay, a community based not for profit preschool built in 1956. In 2008, Catherine won the Community Child Care Co-operative CeeCee Award for the Director with Vision. Catherine's leadership, with her staff's dedication and commitment to excellence in best practice, has brought many recognitions and awards to their service.

Jennine Primmer studied early childhood and arts education and holds a masters degree in arts (UNSW). She has worked in arts education for more than twenty years and is passionate about creative education. Currently she is at Illawarra Children's Services, a not-for-profit organisation that manages 29 community preschools and centres for children, along with major children's equity programs across several states. Jennine has a creative brief to facilitate improved learning outcomes for children from birth to 12 years.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Promoting a positive organisational culture and professional learning community

Strategies and Tips to Manage Change Positively in your Centre

Tanya James

This workshop offers change management skills to respond to the multiple changes occurring in the industry at the moment around ratios, teachers qualifications, national curriculum framework, early childhood education for all 4 year olds, etc. Pragmatic change management / coping strategies will be explored. This session is designed for people who have a basic understanding of the changes that are coming and now want useful change management tools to move forward. Tools explored will respond to participant's needs on the day and might include goal setting, change planning, engaging others, effective change leadership, managing anxiety and accessing helpful resources.

W	22 Sept	Chatswood	1:00-5:00pm	\$65
---	---------	-----------	-------------	------

Identifying and Building Resilient Children's Services

Tanya James

This workshop explores resilience as a key resource needed to manage change effectively. The workshop will look at resilience at the levels of staff, manager / leader and your overall centre. Practical strategies to identify and expand resilience at each level will be explored. Attention will be paid to the increased demands on managers and leaders in times of change and how resilience strategies can be applied to get you through.

W	3 Nov	Chatswood	1:00-5:00pm	\$65
---	-------	-----------	-------------	------

Tanya James has a background in social policy, communication management and organisational development and change. She has worked in the child and family sector for the last five years using appreciative inquiry and other strengths-based processes to help groups develop new forms of child and family practice. She is currently studying appreciative inquiry in the USA School of Management where it was first devised.

NSW RURAL AND REGIONAL SELECTIONS

Gowrie Inservice Training offers a selection of quality professional development opportunities in rural and regional NSW each year. Often we offer choices of topics to communities and take advice from local people about the topic that is most relevant at the time. This process builds local connections, provides sessions that are well attended, and ensures lively professional development experiences for all.

Locations for July-November 2010:

Illawarra	Wollongong and surrounds
NSW South East	Queanbeyan, Yass
NSW South West	Griffith, Gol Gol, Wagga Wagga
NSW Central West	Bathurst, Cowra, Parkes
NSW West	Broken Hill, Cobar, Dubbo, Wellington
NSW North	Armidale, Glen Innes, Gunnedah, Moree, Quirindi
Richmond-Tweed	Lismore
NSW Mid North Coast	Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Taree
Hunter	Cessnock, Forster, Gloucester, Scone

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Increasing awareness and reflection

Early Years Learning Framework: Painting a picture in practice

Joy Lubawy

The Early Years Learning Framework vision is to extend and enrich young children's learning. In this workshop Joy will respond to often-asked questions about EYLF, referring to her latest publication *Planning for Provisions, Provocations and Possibilities: Working Within The Early Years Learning Framework*. She will facilitate discussion about ways you can 'paint a picture' of EYLF in your service's practice. She will offer practical strategies to increase awareness of using the EYLF, showing it in documentation and telling stories of children's learning.

M	11 Oct	Cowra	6:30-9:30pm	\$52
M	18 Oct	Forster	6:30-9:30pm	\$52
T	19 Oct	Kempsey	6:30-9:30pm	\$52
Th	21 Oct	Coffs Harbour	6:30-9:30pm	\$52
S	23 Oct	Lismore	9:30-12:30pm	\$52
W	27 Oct	Wellington	6:30-9:30pm	\$52

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE

Stimulating, engaging and enhancing children's learning and development

Celebrate Culture with Music

Peter Morgan

This dynamic workshop provides teachers and child care workers with the opportunity to develop skills and confidence to celebrate culture through the exploration of music, song, dance and story. This practical workshop is highly interactive and will introduce participants to a variety of music, instruments, dance and stories from many cultures that can be shared with children and adults. Many of the songs featured in the workshop are from Peter's *Te Huanui - The Path CD*.

W	25 Aug	Bathurst	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
---	--------	----------	-------------	------

Literacy: Building the foundations for communication

Joy Lubawy

The EYLF recognises that positive attitudes and competencies in literacy, are built on a foundation of children's exploration of many modes of communication. Joy will explore how the use of rhymes, lullabies, songs and chants sets a playful and beneficial platform for literacy. She will facilitate discussion and offer practical games, songs, and stories to encourage enriched everyday practice that supports children as effective communicators.

W	20 Oct	Bellingen	6:30-9:30pm	\$52
T	26 Oct	Gunnedah	6:30-9:30pm	\$52

PLANNING, DOCUMENTING AND EVALUATING

Programming & Observation Skills: Getting back to basics

Donna Brooks, Vicki Connell, or Alicia Flack-Koné

Do you feel your programming style needs redefining and developing to ensure it meets accreditation standards and is in tune with the new Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)? This workshop is designed to offer staff a good foundation to programming basic skills. We will address recognising and writing meaningful observations, how to gain family input into the program, follow up planning, linking the observation to the program, and evaluation.

M	2 Aug	Griffith	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
T	3 Aug	Gol Gol	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
Th	5 Aug	Broken Hill	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
F	6 Aug	Cobar	3:00-5:30pm	\$47
S	7 Aug	Dubbo	2:00-4:30pm	\$47
W	11 Aug	Cowra	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
M	13 Sept	Cessnock	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
W	15 Sept	Armidale	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
Th	16 Sept	Queanbeyan	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
S	18 Sept	Moree	9:30-12:00pm	\$47
M	20 Sept	Lismore	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
W	22 Sept	Kempsey	6:00-8:30pm	\$47

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Safeguarding and promoting for all children

Play Safe, Be Safe

Vicki Connell

In 2010, SAFE, with funding from John Deere, is placing wonderfully equipped resource kits in ten NSW rural communities: Bathurst, Broken Hill, Cooma, Crookwell, Lismore, Scone, Quirindi, Moree, Taree, and Wagga Wagga.

Children's services staff members throughout NSW have enthusiastically received this workshop that highlights how children's services staff can help develop safe behaviours in rural children from a young age. Come to find out about the resource kit that will be in your region and how to borrow it for use at your children's service.

W	4 Aug	Broken Hill	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
M	9 Aug	Quirindi	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
T	10 Aug	Bathurst	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
Th	12 Aug	Wagga Wagga	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
T	14 Sept	Scone	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
Th	16 Sept	Moree	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
T	21 Sept	Lismore	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
Th	23 Sept	Taree	6:00-8:30pm	\$47

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Rich, diverse experiences to promote learning and development

A studio for belonging: Providing creative spaces for children to encourage confidence and connection

Melodie Glass

When we provide creative and inviting environments, we stimulate and support children's learning. Providing such environments creates a special place where relationships are nurtured, children are connected and involved, creativity is fostered, and confidence is developed. Come along to explore how educators can develop creative spaces for young children including exploring the principles involved in setting up a mini-studio. The workshop will also explore how creative spaces can foster and extend young children's thinking patterns (schemas) and include ideas for how the environment can be enhanced using practical, low cost, recycled materials.

Th	26 Aug	Armidale	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
T	12 Oct	Port Macquarie	6:00-8:30pm	\$47

CHILDREN IN NATURE: THE POWER OF OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

This seminar offers two presentations:

The Other Classroom: Transforming outdoor environments

Jennine Primmer

Take a Step Outside your Door: Connecting children and families with nature and the EYLF

Catherine Lee

See *Featured Events* section for descriptions and presenter biography - page 4.

Th	21 Oct	Corrimal	1:00-5:00pm	\$65
----	--------	----------	-------------	------

Outdoor Learning Program: More than running around

Joy Lubawy

Wellbeing incorporates both physical and psychological aspects (EYLF). This workshop explores creating an outdoor program that supports children's wonder and learning. Joy will use images and stories from real issues, spaces, and children to facilitate discussion on how to encourage more effective use of outdoor space. The intent is to help you create outdoor environments that optimistically engage children, such as, a discovery garden/learning laboratory, rather than just settling for places where children can run.

S	23 Oct	Lismore	1:30-4:00pm	\$52
M	25 Oct	Glen Innes	6:30-9:30pm	\$52
Th	28 Oct	Parkes	6:30-9:30pm	\$52

Physical Environments that Promote Children's Learning

Diane Duvall

Indoor spaces are designed and organised to engage every child in quality experiences (National Standards). The physical environment has a profound impact on children's sense of belonging, being and becoming. Excellent environments are carefully constructed to convey a safe, caring and supportive framework for children's explorations. It is from these inviting places that children's learning engages. Come to this workshop to broaden your attitudes about indoor environments – as places for connection, creativity and learning.

T	26 Oct	Gloucester	6:00-8:30pm	\$47
---	--------	------------	-------------	------

RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN

Relationships that are responsive, respectful and promote sense of security

You're not the Boss of Me!

What happens when children's behaviour challenges us?

Donna Brooks, Alicia Flack

It is inevitable in group care that challenges arise amongst children and also between children and adults. This workshop reflects on the behaviours we aim for in childcare. We will include the work of Dr. Louise Porter to explore triggers to children's behaviour and approaches to behaviour management. We will also explore how adults contribute to children's behaviour.

T	7 Sept	Dubbo	6:30-9:00pm	\$47
Th	14 Oct	Yass	6:00-8:30pm	\$47

INSPIRING PRACTICE PLACES

These services have a lot to share with you. They have accepted our offer to participate in the calendar because they believe in what they do and are happy to contribute their real-world experiences to others. Educators who work in the everyday world of early childhood education and care will enliven the discussions and bring you the special inspirational experiences to be had from each service.

Culture of Communication: One service's successes

Donna Brooks and Yanka Petera

Arabic Australian Child Care Centre

The director and staff of Arabic Australian Child Care Centre will offer examples of how they communicate children's learning in their service. They will share how they connect with the many learning styles, personalities and comfort zones of the parents. Yanka says, 'In our environment the photos speak.' They will illustrate how photos make children's learning visible in meaningful connection with the families.

Donna will explore communication as a building block of self identity, well being, and literacy. Children's participation, behaviour and their abilities to learn are affected by the culture of communication in our services. This workshop examines the elements of communication that promote relationships with children and parents (responsiveness, sensitivity, respect and collaboration) and those that stand in the way.

M	1 Nov	Lakemba	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
---	-------	---------	-------------	------

Register early: limited to 15 participants!

In Association with Arabic Australian Child Care Centre

Making the Child Visible in the Centre

Ruth Weinstein

Wee Care Kindergarten and Wee Care 2

The director and staff of the Wee Care services are inviting you to see how a cohesive community culture functions across two services. This will be a conversation about how strong teams work in each service to promote an environment of engagement with children's learning. This workshop will feature how the child is made visible in the centre, how the staff members extend children's interests, and how the physical environment is changed and revitalised. In this session, you will be seeing two services (located near each other), so this is an opportunity to add value to your workshop experience.

Th	4 Nov	Bondi Junction	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
----	-------	----------------	-------------	------

In Association with Wee Care Kindergarten and Wee Care 2

No Ordinary Moments: A day with the under three's at Gowrie

Diane Duvall and Gowrie Staff

Lady Gowrie Child Centre

This all-day experience offers the opportunity to spend the day at Lady Gowrie Child Centre to observe practice, talk about, reflect upon, and have conversations with staff members from our Tumbalong room, a service for under three's. We will have the opportunity to reflect on key elements that contribute to this quality experience offered for children and families:

- Nurturing learning environment
- The flow of daily activities
- Relationships
- Planning, evaluating and documenting
- Teamwork and partnership
- Parent connections

M	20 Sept	Erskineville	9:30-3:30pm	\$105
---	---------	--------------	-------------	-------

In Association with Tumbalong Playroom, Lady Gowrie Child Centre

11 Outdoor Environments: Alive and well

Diane Duvall and Roberta DeSousa

Summer Hill Children's Centre

Summer Hill balances a small indoor environment and a large outdoor playspace in creative ways. Roberta says, 'Everything that can be inside, we put outside. For us the outdoor environment is important because it offers children valuable and meaningful learning experiences, not just a place to tear around.' Roberta will share how Summer Hill Children's Centre lives their philosophy of the outdoor environment as a place for children to grow up and learn.

Diane will share images from NSW and overseas, and offer ideas from both large and small outdoor environments that reinforce the message that outdoor play is important to children. This session highlights simple, small scale, inexpensive ways to create engaging play environments for children.

Th	14	Summer Hill	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
----	----	-------------	-------------	------

In Association with Summer Hill Children's Centre

Respect and Relationships: A day with the three to five's at Gowrie

Diane Duvall and Gowrie Staff

Lady Gowrie Child Centre

This all-day experience offers the opportunity to spend the day at Lady Gowrie Child Centre to observe practice, talk about, reflect upon, and ask questions of the staff in our Bugarri room, a service for three-five year olds. Staff members will contribute in conversations about their everyday practice. We will have the opportunity to reflect on key elements that contribute to this quality experience offered for children and families:

- Respectful relationships
- Supportive learning environment
- The flow of daily activities
- Planning, evaluation and documenting
- Teamwork and partnership
- Parent connections

F	5 Nov	Erskineville	9:30-3:30pm	\$105
---	-------	--------------	-------------	-------

In Association with Bugarri Playroom, Lady Gowrie Child Centre

We All Belong: Creating a community for under three's

Jemma Carlisle and Fiona Harvey

SDN Marrickville Child & Family Learning Centre

Fiona Harvey, Director, says, "This service has a unique quality of connecting to our families". The staff have researched, worked as a team, and grown together to create an environment that promotes belonging, is homelike, welcoming, cosy, and calm. The newly renovated outdoor environment compliments these ways of being with the children. Come to learn from a service that has gone a step beyond.

Jemma will explore the interplay of quality elements: children as we see them, the role of the educator, what parents see, and responsive and respectful environments. We will look at learning opportunities for younger and mobile babies, and how to encourage a wealth of opportunities that promote exploration and children's learning.

W	3	Marrickville	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
---	---	--------------	-------------	------

In Association with SDN Marrickville Child & Family Learning Centre

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Increasing awareness and reflection

Early Years Learning Framework: Painting a picture in practice

Joy Lubawy

The Early Years Learning Framework vision is to extend and enrich young children's learning. In this workshop, Joy will respond to often-asked questions about EYLF, referring to her latest publication *Planning for Provisions, Provocations and Possibilities: Working Within The Early Years Learning Framework*. She will facilitate discussion about ways you can "paint a picture" of EYLF in your service's practice. She will offer practical strategies to increase awareness of using the EYLF, showing it in documentation and telling stories of children's learning.

T	12 Oct	Lawson	6:30-9:30pm	\$58
W	13 Oct	Chatswood	6:30-9:30pm	\$58
Th	14 Oct	Hurstville	6:30-9:30pm	\$58
S	16 Oct	Bankstown	9:30-12:30pm	\$58

An Intentional Teaching Approach

Diane Duvall

Intentional teaching involves educators being deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in their decisions and action (EYLF). This session explores approaches that promote deliberate and thoughtful teaching. It examines how to improve practice by cultivating shared understandings between staff on key elements. It challenges us to create environments that invite and enhance children's play. We will touch on techniques of communicating, planning, observing, reflecting and responding.

T	31 Aug	Erskineville	1:00-3:30pm	\$58
---	--------	--------------	-------------	------

EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Celebrate Culture with Music

Peter Morgan

This dynamic workshop provides teachers and child care workers with the opportunity to develop skills and confidence to celebrate culture through the exploration of music, song, dance and story. This practical workshop is highly interactive and will introduce participants to a variety of music, instruments, dance and stories from many cultures that can be shared with children and adults. Many of the songs featured in the workshop are from Peter's *Te Huanui - The Path CD*.

M	23 Aug	Penrith	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
T	24 Aug	Katoomba	6:00-8:30pm	\$58
Th	26 Aug	Castle Hill	6:30-9:00pm	\$58

13 Culture of Communication: One service's successes

Donna Brooks and Yanka Petera

Register early: limited to 15 participants!

Arabic Australian Child Care Centre

See Inspiring Practice Places section for description - Page 10.

M	1 Nov	Lakemba	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
---	-------	---------	-------------	------

ICE'T Approach: Aboriginal culture, educational experiences, and games for everyone

Rick Powell

See Featured Events section for description and presenter biography - Page 2.

S	23 Oct	Blacktown	9:00-1:00pm	\$65
---	--------	-----------	-------------	------

S	6 Nov	Castle Hill	9:00-1:00pm	\$65
---	-------	-------------	-------------	------

Inclusion and the Early Years Learning Framework: Different Becomings and Diverse Belongings

Dr. Miriam Giugni

See Featured Events section for description and presenter biography - Page 2.

F	29 Oct	Erskineville	9:00-1:00pm	\$65
---	--------	--------------	-------------	------

Play and Learning for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Learning Links

This workshop will discuss:

- The challenges children with ASD face in the mainstream setting and how these relate to play
- Strategies to support and extend the play of children with ASD
- How the environment can support the learning and inclusion of children with ASD
- Ways to incorporate visual supports throughout daily routines, transitions, group times and play
- Sensory issues and the impact on the child's play and learning.

T	7 Sept	Erskineville	9:30-12:00pm	\$75
---	--------	--------------	--------------	------

Sensory Processing

Learning Links

Do you know a child who never sits still; loses control easily; plays roughly with friends and equipment; appears 'fussy'; is hard to get going; appears to be inattentive; and/or at times is difficult to motivate? These behaviours may result from how a child perceives and responds to sensory information. This workshop provides information about how children learn through their senses. Strategies to support individual learning styles in the home and early childhood settings are discussed through case studies.

T	7 Sept	Erskineville	1:00-3:30pm	\$75
---	--------	--------------	-------------	------

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE

Stimulating, engaging and enhancing children's learning and development

Connecting Children to the Natural World

Kumara Ward

It is important for children's wellbeing to feel connection to the natural environment. This workshop will explore ways to integrate nature not as an extra, but as a normal part of everyday practice, through all parts of the program: storytelling, movement, music, visual arts, drama, etc. It will give you practical strategies to supplement or compliment children's first hand experiences, but in ways that flow seamlessly through daily practice.

Th	16 Sept	Castle Hill	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
----	---------	-------------	-------------	------

Everyday Science

Camilla Gordon

Would you like to learn more about doing science with young children? This practical workshop is about the joy of including science everyday. By adding to children's understanding of life on planet earth, this workshop seeks to build bridges between everyday science and offer insights into our place on the planet. We will be exploring activities in Physics and Chemistry; Geology and Meteorology; Geomorphology and Volcanology! Sounds daunting? Four year olds don't think so!

T	14 Sept	Erskineville	1:00-3:30pm	\$58
T	12 Oct	Mt Pritchard	6:30-9:00pm	\$58

Exploring Belonging through Children's Literature

Catherine Lee

Central to the new national Early Years Learning Framework is the importance of 'knowing where, and with whom, you belong.' This professional workshop will explore what belonging means to ensure children feel they belong in your service. Participants will have the opportunity to work in small groups and engage in reflective practices to investigate themes of belonging in children's literature. Children's literature is a resource used daily with which children connect and identify and is a very visual means of reflecting relationships with families and the community.

Th	28 Oct	Hurstville	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
W	15 Sept	Erskineville	1:00-3:30pm	\$58

How to Wow: Basic storytelling skills for early childhood educators

The Talespinners

This practical workshop examines the basic skills needed to tell a story effectively with young children. These skills include finding the story you love, working on memorising the story, use of language, vocalisation, pacing, eye contact, facial expressions, gestures, timing, and engaging the young audience.

T	14 Sept	Erskineville	9:30-12:00pm	\$58
---	---------	--------------	--------------	------

15 PLANNING, DOCUMENTING AND EVALUATING

Emergent Curriculum: Documentation in an EYLF Context

Deb Garrett

Belonging, Being and Becoming ask us to be intentional in our approach to curriculum and the assessment of children's learning. If we know what we are doing, we can have a variety of tools to assist us in making decisions about how the teaching and learning occurs in our environments. The tools that are explored in this workshop will look closely at an emergent curriculum as the basis for our planning. The environment we provide will be discussed. This workshop will provide practical examples of possible documentation tools that will assist us as educators as we implement the Early Years Learning Framework.

F	22 Oct	Erskineville	1:00-3:30pm	\$58
---	--------	--------------	-------------	------

Meaningful Documentation for Children and their Families: A viewpoint from Aotearoa New Zealand

Kate Jarvis

See Featured Events section for description and presenter biography - Page 3.

Th	16 Sept	Erskineville	9:00-12:30pm	\$58
----	---------	--------------	--------------	------

Programming & Observation Skills: Getting back to basics

Donna Brooks, Vicki Connell, or Alicia Flack-Koné

Do you feel your programming style needs redefining and developing to ensure it meets accreditation standards and is in tune with the new Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)? This workshop is designed to offer staff a good foundation to programming basic skills. We will address recognising and writing meaningful observations, how to gain family input into the program, follow up planning, linking the observation to the program, and evaluation.

Th	26 Aug	Erskineville	1:00-3:30pm	\$58
T	21 Sept	Bankstown	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
Th	23 Sept	Hurstville	6:30-9:00pm	\$58

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Rich, diverse experiences to promote learning and development

A studio for belonging: Providing creative spaces for children to encourage confidence and connection

Melodie Glass

When we provide creative and inviting environments, we stimulate and support children's learning. Providing such environments creates a special place where relationships are nurtured, children are connected and involved, creativity is fostered and confidence is developed. Come along to explore how educators can develop creative spaces for young children including exploring the principles involved in setting up a mini-studio. The workshop will also explore how creative spaces can foster and extend young children's thinking patterns (schemas) and include ideas for how the environment can be enhanced using practical, low cost, recycled materials.

Th	1	Erskineville	1:00-3:30pm	\$58
----	---	--------------	-------------	------

CHILDREN IN NATURE: THE POWER OF OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

This half-day seminar offers two presentations:

The Other Classroom: Transforming outdoor environments

Jennine Primmer

Take a Step Outside your Door: Connecting children and families with nature and the EYLF

Catherine Lee

See *Featured Events* section for descriptions and presenter's biography - Page 4.

Th	21 Oct	Corrimal	1:00-5:00pm	\$65
----	--------	----------	-------------	------

Intentional Environments: Places of wonder and delight

Francene Bastion & Nicole Tytherleigh

Nicole and Fran invite participants to be inspired and to delight in intentional and thoughtful indoor environments. They will illustrate the philosophy that unique learning environments explore the creative, imaginative and social competence of the participants. It is imperative that early childhood practitioners aspire to create environments that will inspire and inform, shape and enrich the learning potential of all.

T	21 Sept	Blacktown	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
T	19 Oct	Liverpool	6:30-9:00pm	\$58

Making the Child Visible in the Centre

Ruth Weinstein

Wee Care Kindergarten and Wee Care 2

See *Inspiring Practice Places* section for description - Page 10.

Th	4 Nov	Bondi Junction	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
----	-------	----------------	-------------	------

Outdoor Environments: Alive and well

Diane Duvall and Roberta DeSousa

Summer Hill Children's Centre

See *Inspiring Practice Places* section for description - Page 11.

Th	7 Oct	Summer Hill	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
----	-------	-------------	-------------	------

Outdoor Learning Program: More than running around

Joy Lubawy

Wellbeing incorporates both physical and psychological aspects (EYLF). This workshop explores creating an outdoor program that supports children's wonder and learning. Joy will use images and stories from real issues, spaces, and children to facilitate discussion on how to encourage more effective use of outdoor space. The intent is to help you create outdoor environments that optimistically engage children, such as a discovery garden/learning laboratory, rather than just settling for places where children can run.

S	16 Oct	Bankstown	1:30-4:00pm	\$58
---	--------	-----------	-------------	------

17 RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN

Relationships that are responsive, respectful and promote sense of security

Respect and Relationships: A day with the three to five's at Gowrie

Diane Duvall and Gowrie Staff

Lady Gowrie Child Centre

See Inspiring Practice Places section for description - Page 11.

F	5 Nov	Erskineville	9:30-3:30pm	\$105
---	-------	--------------	-------------	-------

Shame, Shame Go Away: Guiding children's behaviour with empathy

Rita Johnston

We would all like to work and live in environments where we are respected, cared for, nurtured, listened to, and valued. This workshop examines how differently empathy and shame act upon the child's developing brain, and profoundly affects the child's ability to learn and to develop fully. It offers practical ways to develop the empathic skills and practice of both children and adults. It encourages supporting children and their behaviour without punishment, shaming or manipulation, creating a more joyful early childhood environment.

F	22 Oct	Erskineville	9:30-12:00pm	\$58
---	--------	--------------	--------------	------

You're not the Boss of Me!

What happens when children's behaviour challenges us?

Donna Brooks, Alicia Flack

It is inevitable in group care that challenges arise amongst children and also between children and adults. This workshop reflects on the behaviours we aim for in childcare. We will include the work of Dr. Louise Porter to explore triggers to children's behaviour, and approaches to behaviour, management. We will also explore how adults contribute to children's behaviour.

T	26 Aug	Erskineville	9:30-12:00pm	\$58
M	18 Oct	Gosford	6:30-9:00pm	\$58

PROGRAMS FOR THE UNDER THREE'S

Responsive and respectful practice

No Ordinary Moments: A day with the under three's at Gowrie

Diane Duvall and Gowrie Staff

Lady Gowrie Child Centre

See Inspiring Practice Places section for description - Page 10.

M	20 Sept	Erskineville	9:30-3:30pm	\$105
---	---------	--------------	-------------	-------

We All Belong: Creating a community for under three's

Jemma Carlisle and Fiona Harvey

SDN Marrickville Child & Family Learning Centre

See Inspiring Practice Places section for description - Page 11.

W	3 Nov	Marrickville	6:30-9:00pm	\$58
---	-------	--------------	-------------	------

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Promoting a positive organisational culture and professional learning community

Avoiding Job Burnout through Mindful Self Care

Patrice Thomas

Stress and burnout are factors of concern for early childhood professionals. This workshop introduces important practices for staff to implement in the workplace and at home to enhance their resilience and wellbeing. This session will be informative, practical and experiential. It offers participants simple and inspiring strategies for managing stress, and building coping resources and wellbeing for life.

Mindful practices are well known in the psychology and counselling professions, but is less known in the early childhood field. A mindful approach to managing stress includes attending to the physical aspects of the self (e.g. OH&S considerations), but more importantly goes beyond this by exploring holistic dimensions of wellbeing and overall happiness. Mindfulness approaches involve, learning to focus and attend to the breath, and to the present moment, simple postures and gentle exercises for good health, strength, flexibility and bringing balance into life. Additionally, the importance of mindful meditation, serenity visualisation, and self-reflection practices sustain and support holistic wellbeing.

W	15 Sept	Erskineville	9:30-12:00pm	\$58
---	---------	--------------	--------------	------

Strategies and Tips to Manage Change Positively in your Centre

Tanya James

See Featured Events section for description and presenter biography - Page 5.

W	22 Sept	Chatswood	1:00-5:00pm	\$65
---	---------	-----------	-------------	------

Identifying and Building Resilient Children's Services

Tanya James

See Featured Events section for workshop and presenter biography - Page 5.

W	3 Nov	Chatswood	1:00-5:00pm	\$65
---	-------	-----------	-------------	------

19 PRESENTERS

Donna Brooks has over twenty years experience working in early childhood. She has been the coordinator of several long day care services, occasional care centres and a family day care scheme. During this time she has also worked as a Validator Support Officer for the NCAC and over the last six years has worked extensively in Quality Assurance, in both training and support capacity for all service types throughout NSW and ACT.

Jemma Carlisle is a practitioner who has been working with young children and families for “a long time.” She has been an active director, educator of young children, TAFE teacher, and trainer. Jemma believes that possibilities are endless when respectful relationships are at the core of everything we do.

Vicki Connell has been a preschool teacher for over 30 years working in a variety of early childhood settings in three states, VIC, NSW and QLD, and has lectured at TAFE in children’s services. In 2003 she was one of five early childhood teachers to win a National Excellence in Teaching award for developing an innovative farm safety program. She is a founder and director of SAFE, an organisation that encourages awareness of children’s safety in rural areas.

Diane Duvall, MA, is Coordinator of Gowrie Inservice Training. Diane’s passion for 30 years has been to facilitate the flow of ideas in children’s services -- between individuals, across networks, and over geographic boundaries. In the past decade at Lady Gowrie, Diane has challenged training participants with humour and active participation to examine existing practice and to be motivated to create mindful change.

Alicia Flack-Koné is a mother, and an ECE teacher. For the past sixteen years she has been an activist, educator, mentor, resource/advisory officer, trainer, and university adviser/tutor in the early childhood profession. Alicia co-authored a chapter on superheroes in *Taking Early Childhood Education Outdoors* (Ed. Elizabeth Dau). She currently works, mothers and resides in Canberra.

Deb Garrett is an educator who has worked with children, parents, teachers and the community for the last 29 years in a variety of educational settings. These include a range of early childhood community and government run preschools, long day care services, out of school hours care and schools in many different roles. She has been a part time Lecturer and Tutor at the Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University. She remains grounded by her regular work in the early childhood field. As an advocate she has used a strengths based approach since her first teaching position in a high school! Her focus remains strongly on using children’s interests as a basis for planning and documenting.

Melodie Glass is an early childhood educator, researcher and writer with a background in performing and visual arts. She is currently working at the New England Conservatorium of Music teaching their early childhood music program. Melodie has spent the past few years in management roles both in Australia and the UK. In London she was Advisory Teacher in a cutting-edge inner city children’s centre where ideas from Reggio Emilia were incorporated with green living principles. She recently completed her MA through Sheffield University (UK) in which her research focused on toys in the first years of life.

Camilla Gordon has an M Hons. EC. Ed. in astronomy education and is a Lecturer in Early Childhood Science at Macquarie University. She is currently collecting data for her PhD thesis on Earth and Space Science for Children in the Year Prior to Formal Schooling.

Rita Johnston has worked in education from early childhood to TAFE, for over 25 years. She sees early childhood settings as a crucible where children can develop their emotional intelligence, genuine self worth and authentic self. Rita enjoys working with adults in experiential and practical ways that translate into best practice with children.

Francene Bastion and Nicole Tytherleigh, are committed educators in the field of early childhood education, who have been proactive in challenging many facets of traditional early childhood curriculum. As experienced educators, they have worked in a variety of teaching, managerial and consultancy roles. They are passionate advocates for innovative and reflective practice and successfully promote the concept of community within an emergent, interest-based curriculum.

Learning Links is an Australian charity and non-profit organisation that provides services to children who have learning disabilities, difficulties and developmental delays and their families. They bring together early childhood professionals, teachers, psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers, family counsellors and a developmental paediatrician to work towards the families' goals for their children. Trainers may include: Janette Biffin, Early Childhood Special Educator.

Catherine Lee is the Director of The Point Preschool in Oyster Bay, a community based not for profit preschool built in 1956. In 2008 Catherine won the Community Child Care Co-operative CeeCee Award for the Director with Vision. Catherine's leadership, with her staff's dedication and commitment to excellence in best practice, has brought many recognitions and awards to their service.

Joy Lubawy has been offering workshops since 1998 that reflect her 30-year career working directly with young children as preschool teacher and director. Her enthusiastic, practical and entertaining presentations reflect her experiences in the classroom with young children.

Joy is co-author of Building Walls of Wombats and Preschool Math. She has authored books on many early childhood education topics: observation, programme planning and documentation, emergent curriculum, creativity, and connecting theory, practice and reflection. Her 2010 release is Planning for Provisions, Provocations and Possibilities: Working Within The Early Years Learning Framework, a response to 21 most often asked questions, the challenges, and delights from EYLF.

Peter Morgan has been an established and well-respected part of the Australian and New Zealand music industry for many years. With a unique soulful vocal style, Peter's achievements are exciting, diverse and memorable. Peter's love of music and commitment to his craft has also led him to teaching audiences of all ages, from young children under five, to high school and TAFE students and delivering performance workshops and training to teachers. Peter's pride in his Maori culture is strong and evident in his cultural performances.

The Talespinners, Sue Alvarez and Christine Greenough, have been working together for the past ten years. They love telling stories to all ages, and believe that stories connect with our minds, hearts and imaginations. Sue trained as an English language/specialist drama teacher. She specialises in writing and performing personal stories that make strong connections with her audience. Christine is an Actor/Director with appearances on television and live theatre. In 2007 she received the Best Actress award for the Short and Sweet Play Festival held annually in Sydney.

Patrice Thomas is a teacher, part time university lecturer, author and mindfulness based cognitive training practitioner. She is the director of Mindful Connections, a wellbeing and stress management practice that advises and supports parents and professionals who work with young children. Patrice is uniquely placed as a specialist in the area of managing stress and developing wellbeing through her long experience as a teacher and early childhood teacher educator. She is a nationally and internationally recognised pioneer and author on these topics. Through her many years of work as a trainer and coordinator in the children's services, education and health care fields, she has helped countless professionals, parents, children and also people suffering serious illnesses in bringing balance, calm and resilience into their lives.

Kumara Ward taught in Rudolf Steiner kindergartens and early primary school classes for fifteen years in the beautiful surrounds of the northern rivers area of NSW. This was the backdrop for her connection with the natural world and the development of a creative, arts-based pedagogy for assisting young children to learn about and connect with their environment. For a further seven years Kumara taught in the VET sector, conducted workshops for early childhood educators, and ran a publishing business, authoring four children's books based on the natural world. Kumara is currently completing her PhD with the University of NSW.

Ruth Weinstein has been the owner of Wee Care Kindergarten and Wee Care 2 for 35 years. Her philosophy has been influenced by emergent curriculum, The Rights of the Child, her visits to Reggio Emilia in Italy, and the forest schools of Scotland. She believes that children learn best through active exploration and interaction with the environment, given time and freedom, with as little direction or adult intervention as possible.

