

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

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Growing Together
2011

Conference Update

The ACT Professional Support Coordinator is pleased to announce the Keynote speakers at the upcoming ACT Children's Services Conference.

Date: 29 October 2011
Venue: Hotel Realm, Barton

Wendy Lee

Wendy Lee has almost 40 years involvement in the early childhood education field and is the Project Director for the Educational Leadership Project in NZ. Wendy was the Co-Director of the National Early Childhood Learning and Assessment Exemplar Project. Wendy is also a committed early childhood researcher who has been involved in several research projects with Professor Margaret Carr. She is passionate about the impact of political trends on early childhood education, and has a deep interest in curriculum, leadership and professional learning issues. She has spoken extensively about these interest areas and her research at numerous international events and conferences.

Associate Professor Alma Fleet

Alma Fleet has a long history of engagement in teacher education, both with those currently working with young children in a range of settings and those who are just beginning their professional journeys. In her role as an Associate Professor at the Institute of Early Childhood, she is involved in teaching, research and advocacy across a wide range of issues related to children and the adults who work with them.

Free NQF Resources

The ACT PSC is working closely with the Department of Employment, Education & Workplace Relations (DEEWR), ACT Government and key stakeholders to roll out a strategy that will support eligible education and care services (Child care services in receipt of Child Care Benefit) to understand and implement the new National Quality Framework (NQF).

The ACT PSC has a broad range of resources, professional development, consultancy and support services available to assist educators:

- Free Foundational Information Sessions
- Educator Team Meeting Package
- Customised Training Sessions
- NQS Quarterly Newsletter
- Fact Sheets
- E- Tips

To subscribe to the E-Tips:

<http://actpsc.com.au/contact-us/newsletter/>



In a significant change from the old QA system, a key focus of the NQF requires educators to articulate their practice and knowledge base. The best preparation for NQF is to be working now towards embedding the Early Years Learning Framework into everyday practice. The ACT PSC offers a range of resources, professional development and support options to assist in the implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework which complements the national EYLF Professional Learning Program offered by Early Childhood Australia (ECA):

- Learning Circles
- Customised Sessions
- EYLF Team Meeting Packages
- Networking/Reflection Sessions
- Online resources

While the ACT PSC is funded to support eligible education and care services many of the resources are free to all education and care professionals.

Contact the ACT PSC for further information:

www.actpsc.com.au

actpsc@commsatwork.org

(02) 6287 3330 or 1800 228 772

Online Learning Packages

The ACT PSC offers a wide range of approaches to professional learning. An alternative to face-to-face sessions is online training. ACT PSC online packages include:

Early Year Learning Framework Foundational Package

This package is designed to:

- Provide an overview of the Early Years Learning Framework.
- Explore the three concepts of the Framework – Belonging, Being and Becoming.
- Examine the inter-related elements of the Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes.

http://www.pscalliance.org.au/?page_id=702

National Quality Framework Familiarisation Package

This package aims to support children's services to:

- Understand the major differences between the current process (for LDC, OSHC & FDC) and the National Quality Framework.
- Understand how the changes may affect your service and community.
- Explore how current practice may complement the requirements of the new system.

http://www.pscalliance.org.au/?page_id=737

Other online packages are being developed in accordance with regulations and licensing requirements in the ACT. If you see a gap and would like to suggest an online package, please email actpsc@commsatwork.org

Online packages currently under development include:

- Mandatory Reporting Refresher
- Nutrition & Food Safety
- Induction Processes
- Framework for School Age Care Familiarisation

Worldviews, Theories and Philosophies in Children's Services Project – Coming Soon

Dr Miriam Giugni

This audio-visual resource is a collection of video interviews with academics, educators, policy makers and activists offering an insight into a wide range of worldviews, theories and philosophies that have helped to inform and define their everyday practice. It is hoped the resource will assist educators engage with different ideas and concepts as they work with children and families.

This video resource will be available on the ACT PSC website.

The project is based on page 11 of the EYLF that suggests:

Different theories about early childhood inform approaches to children's learning and development. Early childhood educators draw upon a range of perspectives in their work which may include:

- developmental theories that focus on describing and understanding the processes of change in children's learning and development over time
- socio-cultural theories that emphasise the central role that families and cultural groups play in children's learning and the importance of respectful relationships and provide insight into social and cultural contexts of learning and development
- socio-behaviourist theories that focus on the role of experiences in shaping children's behaviour
- critical theories that invite early childhood educators to challenge assumptions about curriculum, and consider how their decisions may affect children differently
- post-structuralist theories that offer insights into issues of power, equity and social justice in early childhood settings.

Drawing on a range of perspectives and theories can challenge traditional ways of seeing children, teaching and learning, and encourage educators, as individuals and with colleagues, to:

- investigate why they act in the ways that they do
- discuss and debate theories to identify strengths and limitations
- recognise how the theories and beliefs that they use to make sense of their work enable but also limit their actions and thoughts
- consider the consequences of their actions for children's experiences
- find new ways of working fairly and justly



When I read this page I consider the professional knowledges we draw upon in our everyday work. I think about how diverse our work is and the richness of having a framework that asks us to deeply consider the worldviews, theories and philosophies that shape our belongings, beings and becomings in children's services.

Having worked in a range of children's services over the past 20 years as 'unqualified', TAFE Trained, University Qualified Teacher, and as a researcher I have had many opulent experiences to grow and learn. One of the most significant experiences was my first day at university when I began my early childhood degree. I walked into my first lecture with Dr Kerry Robinson who taught

a subject called 'Diversity and Difference' at the University of Western Sydney. She began talking about the importance of theory in early childhood pedagogy and curriculum. She then unfolded a repertoire of theories and theorists I had never met before (such as Foucault, Butler and Bourdieu). She then began to use these theories and theorists in a way that made me think differently about the theories and theorists that I had met (such as Piaget, Vygotsky and Malaguzzi). Dr Robinson also stressed the importance of seeking out and learning from Indigenous worldviews in our everyday work in early childhood. I was stunned, seduced and excited. It seemed like a whole world had opened up to me in this moment. The feeling of that moment has never left me and guides my ongoing

meetings with new worldviews, theories and philosophies. The worldviews, theories and philosophies I learned about then have shaped so much of what I have studied, researched and practised. The worldviews, theories and philosophies I encountered then, enable me to become a particular kind of early childhood teacher and research pedagogue, and for that I am grateful.

The Worldviews, Theories and Philosophies in Children's Services project is something I have been dreaming of for many years. I want the field of children's services to experience and have access to some of the views that I did, because of the way they have opened up so many possibilities for pedagogy and curriculum.

cont. p 4

The series of videos offers 'little glimpses' of a range of worldviews, theories and philosophies for children's services professionals to begin thinking about. Each video offers diverse viewpoints in order to illustrate how different people use different ideas in their contexts. Some of the ideas might seem trickier to understand than others. This might be because they are less familiar to you or have not appeared in mainstream early childhood resources before. Finding something tricky to understand is a wonderful opportunity to begin wrestling with ideas in order to learn something new. At the same time there will be worldviews, theories and philosophies that resonate with your existing knowledge. This experience of hearing someone talk about something familiar can be a reassuring experience as well as a wonderful opportunity to feel connected with people who share the ideas you treasure.

The process of making the Worldviews, Theories and Philosophies in Children's Services videos has been an amazing experience for me. Hearing such a diverse range of people talk about their views was an incredible learning experience for me. It reminded me of the first time I heard Dr Kerry Robinson. It also reminded me of the discussions and debates that were part of how the EYLF was developed. Recalling those experiences made me want every person working in children's services to share the richness of delving into ideas, talking about them, debating them, learning new ideas and revisiting familiar ideas. I consider this to be part of how we work with children through investigation inquiry, critical thinking, theorising and researching. I also considered that if we think of children as theorists, researchers, investigators, critical thinkers and we spend our time engaging pedagogies and resourcing them to produce curriculum in

this way, that we require our own resources that invite us to see ourselves this way too.

I hope that these videos can be used for discussions and debates in staff meetings, TAFE and University courses, professional learning and development, research, with children, families and community partners.



Tracey Linn Bostock and Miriam Giugni filming the Introduction to the Worldviews, theories and philosophies in Children's Services video.



The ACT Children's Services Forum

The ACT Children's Services Forum was established in 2007 and since then has been providing an avenue to share information, inform and consult with key representatives of the ACT's education and care profession. The Forum focuses on issues and achievements for the early and middle childhood education and care sectors.

The ACT Children's Services Forum aims to:

- Inform a sustainable, flexible and responsive children's services sector.
- Consider issues of supply and demand in the ACT children's services sector and develop a strategic approach in response to concerns of under and oversupply of places for children from birth to school age.
- Consider strategies that address the shortage of qualified staffing in the children's services sector and to contribute to the consolidation of growth and development in the children's services sector workforce.
- Contribute towards and inform national policy agendas in early childhood education and care with a focus on quality provision in service delivery and the best interests of ACT children.
- Facilitate the development of educational, care and curriculum initiatives that improve outcomes for children in the ACT.

In 2011, the Forum will have a particular focus on developing initiatives to contribute to the implementation of the National Quality Framework and respond to issues raised at the ACT Children's Services Roundtable held in April.

The Forum is made up of a number of key stakeholders from the education and care profession. The Forum is reliant on the education and care sector providing feedback to their representatives on what is happening in their sector.

If you would like more information about the ACT Children's Services Forum or the membership please contact the Forum secretariat, Sarah Kirk from the Children's Policy and Regulation Unit on **6205 4830**.

EYLF Professional Conversation Network

The Professional Conversation Network is a new facilitated network (situated in both North and South Canberra) that is open to members of the early childhood education and care community to come together and engage in professional conversations surrounding the Early Years Learning Framework.

Using the Educator's Guide to the Early Years Learning Framework as a platform, the network sessions will provide opportunities for in-depth discussion and thinking over a sustained period about the concepts that build the framework.

Facilitated by Anne Kennedy, the sessions will be designed to: provoke, inspire and challenge.

About Anne Kennedy:

Anne works as a consultant, trainer, researcher and author in early childhood education and is an adjunct senior lecturer at Charles Sturt University. Anne was a member of the CSU led consortium which wrote the Early Years Learning Framework. In her capacity as chairperson of Community Child Care Victoria and as an active member of ECA, Anne actively engages in advocacy to ensure the provision of high quality play-based education for young children as part of their rights as citizens.

Members of the Network will have to opportunity to:

- Think about...
- Talk and reflect about...
- Try out...
- Hear about... and
- Find more about...

Northside Professional Conversation Network:

Date: 24th Aug and 9th Nov

Venue: Gungahlin Library, Corner of Hibberson and Gozzard streets, Gungahlin

Time: 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm

Southside Professional Conversation Network:

Date: 25th Aug and 10th Nov

Venue: Tuggeranong Library, Cowlishaw Street, Tuggeranong ACT

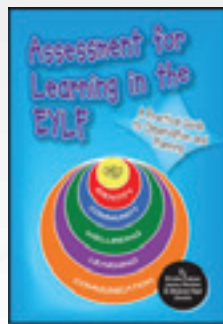
Time: 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm

InfoHUB Update – EYLF Resources

Now is the time to become or renew your membership for the ACT PSC InfoHUB.

The Annual membership fee of only \$44.00 for ACT children's services and individuals employed in ACT children's services is now due. If you would like to become a member go to the ACT PSC website at www.actpsc.com.au and click "Register" in the top right hand corner.

The ACT PSC InfoHUB has recently purchased new resources. With a focus on inclusion, leadership and the EYLF some of the new resources you can borrow include...



Assessment for Learning: Documentation and Planning for the EYLF By Bridie Raban, Jenny Barber & Sharon Paul Smith

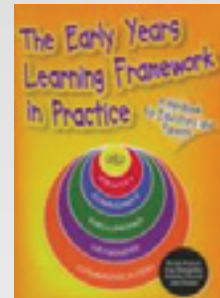
'Assessment for children's learning refers to the process of analysing and gathering information as evidence about what children know, can do and understand.' (Early Years Learning Framework, DEEWR 2009, p.17)

Assessment for Learning: Documentation and Planning for the EYLF is an essential resource for all educators and directors in early childhood settings. It has been written to provide a point of reference in relation to the assessment for learning process described in the Early Years Learning Framework.

Chapters deal with different aspects of the process, focusing on documentation, planning, evaluation, assessment and reflection. Each can be seen as separate, but all aspects need to be put in place to ensure that each child's learning is fostered through rich and stimulating experiences.

Different early childhood settings will approach this in different ways. There is no one set format that will suit all purposes or occasions,

and so each concludes with things to think about that will help you and your colleagues decide how to set about these activities in ways that best reflect your philosophy, your children and their families, and communities you engage with and belong to.



The Early Years Learning Framework in Practice: A Handbook for Teachers & Practitioners By Bridie Raban, Jan Deans, Kay Margetts & Amelia Church

This book provides early childhood professionals with a practical guide for interpreting and implementing Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.

The Information is of value to anyone who is concerned about early childhood education and learning – educator, manager, student or parent.

Central to the book are the five chapters that provide practical advice and strategies for supporting each of the learning outcomes - Identity, Community, Wellbeing, Learning and Communication. As well, it includes:

- A resume of government imperatives for the early childhood profession
- A comprehensive overview of the Principles, Practices and Pedagogy underpinning the EYLF
- Advice on implementing the outcomes with different age groups
- Guidelines on learning environments, observations, evaluation, planning, and play
- Questions to encourage reflective practice
- A comprehensive list of useful resources plus internet links for worksheets

Upcoming ACT PSC Workshops

Routines and Transitions

Presented by
Lady Gowrie- Sydney

Session: Thursday 8 September
Time: 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Location: Session held at Centre for Teaching and Learning, Stirling

Building Positive Relationships

Presented by Network of Community Activities

Session: Wednesday 26 October
Time: 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Location: Session held at Centre for Teaching and Learning, Stirling

Look Make Look

Presented by National Gallery of Australia

Session: Wednesday 2 November
Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
Location: Session held at National Gallery of Australia

Upcoming Events

Put them in your diary

August 20th – 21st, 2011

Early Childhood Conference of Performing Arts 2011

Melbourne, Victoria
More information:
www.vosa.org

October 12th – 14th, 2011

The Power of Play National Playgroup Conference - All Together Now

Melbourne, Victoria
More information:
www.powerofplay.com.au

October 29th, 2011

ACT PSC Conference Growing Together

Barton, Canberra
More information:
www.actpsc.com.au

November 18th – 19th, 2011

Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity 2011

Melbourne, Victoria
More information:
<http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec/conferences/conf11/index.html>

For more information on any of the articles in this newsletter contact the **ACT PSC** on (02) 6287 3330 or 1800 228 772.

www.actpsc.com.au

It's about you. Always!
Communities@Work



The ACT PSC is managed by Communities@Work. The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care, funds the Professional Support Coordinator initiative as part of the Inclusion and Professional Support Program. Feedback and queries should initially be directed to the ACT Professional Support Coordinator. Further information can be sought by contacting the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.