EARLY CHILDHOOD
CONFERENCE 2010

RMIT UNIVERSITY HAMILTON IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMBINED PRESCHOOLS OF SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS INC AND SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL PRESENTS;

EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS

Friday 20 August 2010
RMIT University Hamilton, 200 Ballarat Road, Hamilton

$165 for full day conference including lunch and morning and afternoon teas

Keynote Speaker: Lydia Bustin, B.Ed.

Early Childhood Matters

Based in Melbourne, Lydia has worked in the Children’s Services profession for over twelve years as an Early Childhood Teacher, Director and TAFE Lecturer. Lydia’s qualifications include the Diploma of Children’s Services and a Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education and is currently completing the Masters in Education.

Lydia is passionate about contemporary theories and pedagogy, curriculum development and documentation, developing the reflective practitioner, and gender discourse in early childhood. Lydia is currently leading a team of twelve staff in her management role in a Melbourne preschool.

Together they recognise the importance of celebrating the early childhood journey. Lydia’s enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to early childhood practise continues to grow. She has recently established a training and consulting practice because... Early Childhood Matters.

Keynote Sessions:

Morning Session
Documenting the Early Childhood Journey

Observing, documenting and reflecting upon all facets of the early years program is the responsibility of all practitioners. Contemporary practice supports and promotes a collaborative approach to this process. This workshop will address the importance of the documentation process, identify the values of, and differences between portfolios, communication books, daily/weekly reflection journals, while also addressing the differences, relevance and importance of traditional and contemporary methods of observations. In addition, the workshop will address what is required for DEECD and the Early Years Framework. Findings will show that documenting the early childhood journey is in fact a celebration of early childhood.

Afternoon Session
Implementing a numeracy-rich, science-rich learning environment

Young children are naturally curious explorers of their environment. Through active exploration, young children observe, experiment, investigate, make predictions, analyse and form discoveries. In this way young children construct knowledge and make sense of the world around them. Mathematics and science are deeply interwoven. An early learning environment that cultivates a positive attitude towards science and math, in conjunction with a ‘hands-on’ meaningful numeracy-rich, science-rich play-based learning environment supports children's natural curiosity and helps to establish solid foundations for children's future possibilities. This workshop will challenge the early childhood practitioner to step beyond their own limitations and become scientists and mathematicians alongside young children. Sharing this challenge with parents will also be addressed, as will links to the Early Years Framework.
Workshops
You may attend 2 of the 4 interactive workshops. Please mark the boxes on the registration form 1—4 with your preferences.

The interactive session will focus on how educators can help children develop the skills and strategies needed to play and learn appropriately at school and kindergarten. Jane has worked with many schools in implementing these practices. She has also recently published a chapter on “Working Restoratively in the Early Years” and a “Restorative Practices Visual Script”.

**Local Koorie Practitioners: Koorie Culture in the Early Learning Environment.**
This interactive session will explore using Koorie culture as a learning resource for all learners. It will also provide strategies and resources for Koorie learners and their families.

**Carol Krause: Language Support through Games and Activities.**
Carol Krause is a certified practise Speech Pathologist working in the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development. The Language Support Program was introduced to improve the capacity of teachers to support children with a language delay or disorder. As oral language underpins literacy it is important for all formal learning, and therefore we have a shared responsibility to meet the diverse learning needs of all students. You will be introduced to the program with many hands on activities and games to take away and play.

**Davina McClure: READY, SET, GO! Establishing Musical Foundations.**
Have you ever wondered where to start in establishing musical foundations for children that will secure their musical growth and development in the future? How do we best invest in their first musical steps? Can we relate this to early literacy? This session will introduce you to wonderful activities that help children make aural sense of the world as they develop their speaking and singing voice along with movement, expressive sensitivity and musicality. This session will explore songbooks, rhymes, echo and call & songs that are new and engaging for young and old! Ready, Set, Go with music in your classroom.

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**Morning Session**
8.45am Registration, and tea & coffee
9.15am Welcome
9.30am Keynote Address: Documenting the Early Childhood Journey
11.00am Morning tea
11.25am Workshops
- Restorative Practices—Jane Langley
- Koorie Culture—Local Koorie Practitioners
- Language Support—Carol Krause
- Musical Foundations—Davina McClure
12.30pm Lunch
1.20pm Workshops
- Restorative Practices—Jane Langley
- Koorie Culture—Local Koorie Practitioners
- Language Support—Carol Krause
- Musical Foundations—Davina McClure
2.35pm Keynote Address: Implementing a numeracy-rich, science-rich learning environment.
3.45pm Conference close and tea and coffee

**TRADE DISPLAY WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING LUNCH BREAK**

**THANK YOU TO:**

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**How to book**
Numbers are limited. Positions will be secured upon registration and payment. To book, please complete the attached Enrolment Form and for further enquiries contact RMIT University Hamilton (03) 5572 0500, or email: rmithamilton@rmit.edu.au