



Beginnings

Newsletter of Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Qld Chapter) Inc

From the President



Deb Smith
President ECIA, Qld

Save the Dates:

- **Sat 19 March**
ECIA Communication and Behaviour PD Session - Brisbane
- **Sat 2 April**
Sensory Integration PD Session - Toowoomba

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter for 2011! For thousands of Queenslanders and indeed Australians this has been one of the most tragic starts to a year one could imagine. The world has been watching as Queensland has repeatedly been battered by natural disasters and our thoughts and hearts go out to the folk who have suffered profound losses during these testing times. We are proud to be Queenslanders with a 'we can't be beaten' attitude as we support each other to pick up the pieces and work together to rebuild broken lives and communities better than ever. Our thoughts and best wishes are with the many Australians who have indeed been subjected to ongoing flooding and bush-fires. Similarly our friends and neighbours across the Tasman enduring the tragedy and uncertainty of earthquakes. Our heartfelt blessings go out to you.

The Early Childhood Intervention Executive Committee have hit the ground running. Plans are underway for several quality professional development opportunities in the first half of the year starting in Brisbane and then moving to regional centres as we continue our commitment to honouring the ECIA mission:

To provide a state wide forum for communicating and sharing information, philosophies and practices relating to the provision of early intervention

services in Queensland.

Our first Professional Development session in Brisbane will be a beauty and promises many interactive and practical learning opportunities as popular presenter and Speech Language Pathologist Catriona Pine unpacks the links between being an effective communicator and developing socially appropriate behaviours which support positive outcomes for young children. For dates see page 5.

Toowoomba will host the next ECIAQ session as master communicator and storyteller Simon Ellaby will team up with a highly experienced Occupational Therapist Tina Wurth to share their skills and knowledge.

In May, Townsville will once again host Catriona Pine and Tina Wurth for their acknowledged presentations on the links between communication and behaviour and sensory integration issues for young children.

From a ECIA National perspective there has been much discussion followed by action already this year. Planning for the Australasian ECIA Conference to be held in beautiful Perth 2012, is well underway with strong links being established countries like Singapore and Malaysia to make it a truly

international experience. Further to this, ECIA has played an integral part in providing input in the Better Start for Children with a Disability and the United Nations Rights for Children with a Disability report. Interesting discussions and recommendations for these two key initiatives is just one way the National Branch of ECIA is working toward improving outcomes for young children with additional needs and their families.

We have had some enquires about the annual Quality Inclusive Practice Awards and presentation dinner. Some early childhood settings are considering nominating for one of the 6 categories:

- :Team Approach
- :Training and Development
- :Administration
- :Family Centred Practice
- :Service Delivery
- :Program Design

In recent years we have an

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increasing number of nominations from city and regional programs around Queensland. The quality and quantity of nominations from early years programs is strengthening which is pleasing indeed.

Its not too early to begin planning your nomination for 2011. The Quality Inclusive Practice Awards presentation dinner will be held during the third week in August.

Kind regards

Deb Smith

Did You Know??

The patron of Early Childhood Intervention Australia is Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.



Looking at the World Differently - by A Project Prepared by Dr Gay Ochiltree and John Forster CEO Noah's Ark Victoria

A child with additional needs is just one complexity that places additional demands on the wellbeing of a family. The impact of dealing with family life can leave parents questioning themselves as parents, placing extra pressure on relationships, their social networks and the wider community. For parents of a child with a developmental disability the additional stress, fear and responsibility of supporting their child to interact with the community, their extended family, specialist services and finding support within educational settings can affect a family adversely.

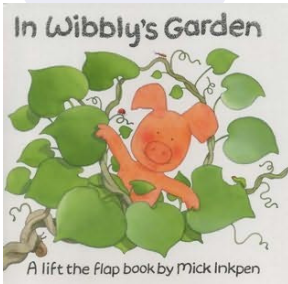
Research continues to identify the vital importance of the early years in the development of all children. A child with a disability needs the same as any child: a loving family, a place in the community, emotional support, a healthy environment, educational and therapeutic services.

Service provision for young children with a disability goes hand in hand with understanding child development and the importance of setting goals for successful family and community living. Supporting parents as the child's first teacher, within the micro setting of the family home, early childhood educational settings and service providers and the macro setting of the neighbourhood will have a positive effect on family well being and improve family life .

However there is still evidence of social stigma and exclusion for children with a disability in relation to community acceptance and insensitivity toward the child and family's ability to provide and adequate family life for the child. Not only strangers but sometimes family members and members of the medical profession can be insensitive toward a child with additional needs and their family causing considerable pain and discomfort. This may result in parents electing to withdraw a child from participating in activities, outings or accessing services that they would otherwise take part in.

For more information go to www.noahsarkinc.org.au/history.htm Looking at the World Differently: The experience of having a child with additional needs. [2009]

Beginnings



There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colours are brighter, the air softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again.

- Elizabeth Lawrence

Ideas for Learning and Playing in the Garden

There are many ideas that we can use to help children learn about the environment during those cooler Winter months and rainy days. Some of these include:

- Germinating beans and seeds in clear cups;
- 'Growing a salad' of alfalfa, mustard and cress seeds;
- Make a terrarium for the classroom;
- Read stories about gardens such as Mick Inkpen's "In Wibble's Garden";
- Grow Winter vegetables such as mignonette lettuce, dwarf beans, beetroot, sweet corn, and snow peas (these are some of the best vegetables to plant for Brisbane's Autumn climate);
- Adapt the well-known story of *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* to *We're Going on a Vegetable Hunt* (we're going to pick a big one, oh my goodness, what an enormous beetroot).

Circle of Security

Q: What is Circle of Security™?

A: The Circle of Security® is an innovative intervention program designed to alter the developmental pathway of parents and their young children.

Q: Is the Circle of Security™ a theory or a protocol or both?

A: The COS is a user-friendly, visually based (utilizing extensive use of both graphics and video clips) approach to helping parents better understand the needs of their children. It is based extensively upon attachment theory (from the work of John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth) and current affective neuroscience.

Q: Can I access the handouts on the Circle of Security™ website?

A: Yes. Psychologists, educators, childcare professionals, counsellors, etc. have found these graphics to be useful for parents and professionals in explaining the core themes of attachment behaviour in young children.

For more information <http://www.circleofsecurity.net>

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is held annually on the 21st March. Harmony Day is where we can have fun celebrating Australia's cultural diversity. There are lesson ideas and educational resources available from the following website:

<http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/>

DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL COHESION PROGRAM
EVERYONE BELONGS

Professional Development Opportunities - Autism Queensland

Autism Queensland is proud to announce that one of the world's leading Autism communication experts, **Linda Hodgdon M.Ed CCC-SLP**, will present a master class in Brisbane on Friday 25 March 2011.

Discovering the Possibilities with Visual Strategies

Improving Communication, Behaviour and Social Skills in Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Related Communication Challenges.

Venue: Broncos Leagues Club, 98 Fulcher Road, Red Hill

Date: 25 March 2011 (8:30am - 4pm)

Early Bird Rate: \$225 (if purchased by 11 March)

Standard Rate: \$255

Parent Rate: \$210



Teachers and parents are set to learn practical strategies that significantly reduce behaviour problems in the classroom and the home. US-based Linda Hodgdon is internationally renowned as a pioneer in the visual strategies to support communication for students with Autism.

The one day master class will provide easy to use techniques and strategies for teachers, parents, speech pathologists and support workers to help children with Autism develop communication skills and improve behaviour.

Most individuals with ASD and related communication challenges are visual learners!

Learn how to capitalise on the visual learning strengths of individuals with ASD

Learn how to use visual strategies to help with organisation, reduce behaviour problems, and improve participation.

Gain practical ideas for all settings

You can [book online](#) or [download the flyer and registration form](#).

For further information please visit our website, call 3273 0000 or email Pauline Aitchison at pauline.aitchison@autismqld.com.au.

ECIA (NSW Chapter)

Does This Child Need Help?

Identification and Early Childhood Intervention (2nd Edition)

This highly regarded training resource for early childhood professionals comprises a Learner's Resource Book, Trainers Guide, accompanying training video and DVD and Presenter's CD Rom.

The resource book, which is also available separately, covers:

Part 1: Young Children with Disabilities and Delays:

Identification and Intervention

Chapter 1: What is Early Childhood Intervention?

Chapter 2: Why Intervene Early? Rationale and Evidence

Part 2: Understanding Early Childhood Development and Identifying Concerns

Chapter 3: Early Childhood Development

Chapter 4: Identifying Young Children with Additional Needs

Chapter 5: Making Sense of What You Find

Part 3: Communicating Concerns

Chapter 6: Talking with Families

Chapter 7: Ethical Issues: Taking on the Hard Stuff

Chapter 8: What next?

Cost

Full Training Package:

Members: \$150.00 (plus p&h)

Behaviour and communication are entwined - a child may use several behaviours as a 'solution' to a problem and a form of communication (Kaiser & Rasminsky, 2007)



Early Childhood Intervention Australia

(Queensland Chapter) Inc

ABN: 81 143 010 743

Presents

An interactive presentation by **Catriona Pine**

“Communication and Behaviour in the early years classroom”

The good development of communication and behaviour skills are integrally linked to positive outcomes in the early years classroom.

This interactive presentation will give you an overview of communication skills expected in the early years classroom, as well as practical ideas and strategies to support and extend your students including visual supports, teacher language, communication expectations and organisational skills.

There will also be opportunities to trial strategies and brainstorm solutions.

Catriona Pine has worked as Speech Language Pathologist with Education Queensland for nearly 20 years. She has supported many students reach their communication goals in the classroom, and particularly enjoys working with early years students. She has co-developed many oral language programs including 'PrepTalk: oral language strategies for early years classrooms'. She has also been working as a storyteller and puppeteer over the last four years with Wide Eyed Stories.

Saturday 19 March 2011

Registration 8:30am. Workshop session 9:00am to 12:00pm

**Niche Event Spaces (previously 433 On Logan),
The Stones Throw Café, 433 Logan Rd, Stones Corner**

Members \$40 Non-Members \$50 (Inc morning tea)

Registration enquiries
phone

Bernie (07) 3720 0952
(Wed & Thurs 9am to 3pm,
other times leave
a clear message)

Session content enquiries
phone

Katie 0410 682 468

To register

Step 1 Register your interest and check seating availability
Email eciaqld@bigpond.com
Phone (07) 3720 0952

Wed & Thurs 9am to 3pm, other times leave a clear message

⚡ Please note: THIS DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE

Step 2 Fill in and return attached Registration Form (next page)

Step 3 Pay to confirm your place by Direct Deposit, Cheque or Money Order. Sorry, no credit cards accepted

Your place at this session will be confirmed by ECIA email

Professional Development Opportunities Continued..



Early Childhood Intervention Australia

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Presents a Two Part Presentation
Practical Strategies for the Early Years Classroom

Sensory Integration and Interactive Storytelling

Sensory Integration Presented by Tina Wurth

- A sensory processing presentation – what is it, how it happens, what happens when it goes wrong. Children who experience difficulties with sensory processing can have challenges with attention, fine and gross motor skills, self care tasks, play and social skills.
- This presentation will provide the skills, ideas and strategies to use directly in early years classrooms, in order to assist children to better cope with, or have their sensory needs satisfied. Includes hands on 'experiments' for participants to experience sensory challenges personally.

Tina Wurth is the owner of Brisbane based OT practice Ready, Set, Go! OT. She practices in community based settings, alongside speech therapists, psychologists and teachers. She works with children who have ASD, and sensory processing difficulties, as well as kids who find everyday activities to be a challenge.

Interactive Storytelling - "A Book Is Not a Story" Presented by Simon Ellaby

- A practical presentation on interactive and proactive story-telling techniques for students with additional needs based upon the Simon's twelve years of experience as a library storyteller working with Special Needs students and subsequent experience as a Special School teacher.
- The presentation will focus on techniques to find the way into stories in order to bring them alive for Special Needs audiences. It will provide tools to enable teachers and teacher assistants to transform their favourite books into stories which they can perform for their students.

Saturday 2 April 2011

Registration 8:30am. Workshop session 9:00am to 12:00pm

**All Seasons Function Centre,
Cnr North and Tor Sts, Toowoomba**

Members \$40 Non-Members \$50 (Inc morning tea)

Registration enquiries
phone

Bernie (07) 3720 0952
(Wed & Thurs 9am to 3pm,
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Simon Ellaby had 12 years storytelling experience in Logan City Council Libraries, before changing career to teaching. He is currently based at Kuraby Special School and uses storytelling as a part of his daily pedagogy. He is well known for his full-body-contact interactive and engaging storytelling. He is definitely not Patsy Biscoe, or even Pate Biscuit. He is unlikely to remain seated for long during his presentation.



Red Flag Early Intervention Guide

Please click on the following link to find out more about the Red Flag Guide

http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/professionals/cchs_cdp.asp

Contact Details

Telephone: 0466 363 020

Postal Address:
 PO Box 6469
 Upper Mt Gravatt
 Queensland 4122
 Australia

Email: ecia-qld@bigpond.com

Website: ecia-qld.org.au

<http://www.ecia.org.au/chapters-qld.htm>

How to use this resource:

This resource is a tool to help you to determine whether a child may have developmental delays. It will allow you to refer early before the child begins to struggle to achieve tasks usually managed by children of the same age.



The "Red Flag" Early Intervention Referral Guide for children 0 – 5 years



How to use this resource:

This resource is a tool to help you to determine whether a child may have developmental delays. It will allow you to refer early before the child begins to struggle to achieve tasks usually managed by children of the same age.

- Step 1** - Find the child's age across the top of the table below.
- Step 2** - Read through the list and identify if the child is demonstrating any of the Red Flags at their age level.
- Step 3** - If the child is between age levels (e.g. 2 yrs 5 months) check the lower age level for Red Flags (i.e. 2 yrs)

When to be concerned?

One or more Red Flags (in any area) is a sign of delayed development.

Who to go to?

Parents
 If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact your Family Doctor or Child Health Nurse (1300 386 033).

Health Professionals

If you have screened and identified any Red Flags, please contact your local Child Development Service.

Who helps with these Red Flags?

Children aged 0 – 5 years who have a developmental concern, may benefit from the services from any of the following:

- Paediatrician
- Speech Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Social Worker
- Psychologist.

Local Child Development Service

Child Development Program
 Ph: 333 5 8888 Fax: 333 5 88 69

Please note: Waiting times apply and are indicated at Hlabs. **Parents** - It is advisable to call your Doctor or Child Health Nurse before calling this number.

Developed by
 Child Development Program
 Children's Health Services
 in conjunction with GPartners

RED FLAG REFERRAL GUIDELINES

	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	15 MONTHS	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	RED FLAGS AT ANY AGE
 Stand on feet/balance	Can stand with or without help for 5 seconds.	Can stand without help for 5 seconds.	Can stand without help for 5 seconds.	Can stand without help for 5 seconds.	Can stand without help for 5 seconds.	Can stand without help for 5 seconds.	Can stand without help for 5 seconds.	Can stand without help for 5 seconds.	Can't stand on feet/balance
 Carry a ball	Can carry a ball for 5 seconds.	Can carry a ball for 5 seconds.	Can carry a ball for 5 seconds.	Can carry a ball for 5 seconds.	Can carry a ball for 5 seconds.	Can carry a ball for 5 seconds.	Can carry a ball for 5 seconds.	Can carry a ball for 5 seconds.	Can't carry a ball
 Play with blocks	Can play with blocks for 5 minutes.	Can play with blocks for 5 minutes.	Can play with blocks for 5 minutes.	Can play with blocks for 5 minutes.	Can play with blocks for 5 minutes.	Can play with blocks for 5 minutes.	Can play with blocks for 5 minutes.	Can play with blocks for 5 minutes.	Can't play with blocks
 Draw a picture	Can draw a picture for 5 minutes.	Can draw a picture for 5 minutes.	Can draw a picture for 5 minutes.	Can draw a picture for 5 minutes.	Can draw a picture for 5 minutes.	Can draw a picture for 5 minutes.	Can draw a picture for 5 minutes.	Can draw a picture for 5 minutes.	Can't draw a picture

Parents - If there are Red Flags call your Family Doctor or Child Health Nurse. Professionals - REFER EARLY - DO NOT WAIT