



Beginnings

Newsletter of Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Qld Chapter) Inc

Save the Dates

- 23rd July— ECIA Professional Development in Toowoomba “Myth or Mystery: The Power of Positive Reinforcement” and “Successful Circle Time for Young Children.”
- August 16th—Quality Inclusive Practice Awards at Kedron Wavell Services Club
- 20th August—ECIA Professional Development—Dr Mary Louise Hemmeter, Principal Investigator for the Center for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning and Co-Editor of the Journal of Early Intervention.
- 15th October—ECIA Professional Development in Brisbane. “Myth or Mystery: The Power of Positive Reinforcement” and “Successful Circle Time for Young Children.” Plus Tina Wurth—Paediatric OT.

From the President

Hi Everyone,

It’s hard to believe that we are so close to the middle of 2011! The ECIA Queensland team has been following a plan to build awareness, provide professional development and link members with programs and services, strategies, and resources regionally across the state.

To date we have facilitated quality presentations in Toowoomba, Brisbane, and Townsville. The presentations were a response to requests and feedback from members and guests about their needs for information to increase competencies and build capacity within their communities.

When it comes to the second half of the year we have presentations planned for the Ipswich/Toowoomba area and Brisbane. One of our annual highlights is fast approaching in the **ECIA Qld Quality Inclusive Practices [QIP] Awards and Dinner**. This year it will be held on the **16th August at Kedron Wavell Services Club**. This is a Tuesday night with the RNA Exhibition holiday for those who live in Brisbane. This is a wonderful evening of celebration and recognition of the committed people who work with young children with additional needs. Everyone is welcome and please pass on this infor-

mation to parents or professionals working within the Early Childhood Intervention community.

Please consider nominating for an award. There are 6 categories for nomination and we have had great entries from regional and South East Queensland over the last couple of years. We have had successful nominations from non state and state schools, children’s therapy units, childcare centres, kindy’s and family groups in recent times.

Another very exciting event will be Mary Louise Hemmeter visiting Queensland and presenting for ECIA in the South East in late August. Dr Hemmeter is an Associate Professor and she specialises in effective approaches for **teaching young children with disabilities, strategies or promoting young children’s social emotional development and addressing challenging behaviour**, approaches to training and supporting teachers to use evidence based practices.

So keep your eyes peeled for these great professional development opportunities and the QIP Award events that are coming up over the next 6 months. Keep in mind that we may be able to assist you with nominating for a QIP Award or attending the event



Deb Smith
President ECIA, Qld

if you need help.

ECIA National Focus

The national executive committee has been hard at work especially in response to key documentation and legislation. Some of the tasks that ECIA National have been involved in are:

- Review of Disability Standards for Education 2005
- 2011 Child Rights NGO Report
- NGO Report to the United Nations on Child Rights in Australia-2011 Children with Disabilities
- Better Start for Children with a Disability – Issues and Recommendations

Best wishes
Deb Smith

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New Wii Game for Children with Vision Impairments



Royal Dutch Visio introduces new Wii game that is accessible for children who are blind or vision impaired.

On Friday 25 March 2011 Royal Dutch Visio, Centre of Expertise for blind and partially sighted people in The Netherlands launches a unique game for the Wii game computer. For the first time children with and without vision impairment can play together on an equal level, thanks to the game called "The Explorer and the Mystery of the Diamond Scarab". The game is available in an English version.

In this game you play the role of Ben the Archaeologist who is searching for the Temple of the Diamond Scarab. Once he is in the temple he meets Tiri, an enchanting Egyptian princess. Going through a maze of underground passages they look for ancient Egyptian treasures and confront various challenges. The Guardian leads them step by step to the exit. The game is played on a Balance Board, a standard Wii accessory. With this you can move through the maze, find treasures and enter challenging situations. This is the first game in the world developed jointly for vision impaired, blind and fully sighted children.

The first official Nintendo Wii game for children with or without vision impairment is developed via so-called co-creation. This is a technique in which the end user is involved in the development of new products and services. Vision impaired, blind and fully sighted children contributed to the content and form of this game, while physical therapists, exercise specialists and teachers monitored the motoric aspects.

Visio supports, encourages and counsels vision impaired people by providing courses, training and other programs. In addition to the positive effect of playing with fully sighted peers on a level playing field, this game also helps to improve motor skills and physical coordination.

Positive Partnerships in 2011

Positive Partnerships is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Although this is the final year of the current contract, funding under the program will continue with future options under consideration throughout 2011. Our focus over this year will be to ensure the continuation of the high quality Positive Partnerships' workshop delivery, materials and practical resources, whilst providing some alternate programs that aim to build in sustainability of learning and access to our resources and key planning tools beyond 2011.

If you are a parent/carer of a school aged child with an autism spectrum disorder, this online course is available to help you work in partnership with your child's education placement to improve their learning outcomes.



Supporting school aged students on the
Autism Spectrum

<http://www.autismtraining.com.au/public/index.cfm?returnTo=/index.cfm#0>

Beginnings

Media Access Australia—New Website

Media Access Australia has just launched their new website. This is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to increase access to media for people with disabilities.

This website provides access solutions for people with vision and hearing impaired. Some of the tools described on this website include: captioning, audio captioning, and a device to assist people with a vision impairment to understand graphics to name a few.

Go to www.mediaaccess.org.au for lots more information.

*“We don’t stop
playing because we
grow old; we grow
old because we stop
playing.”*

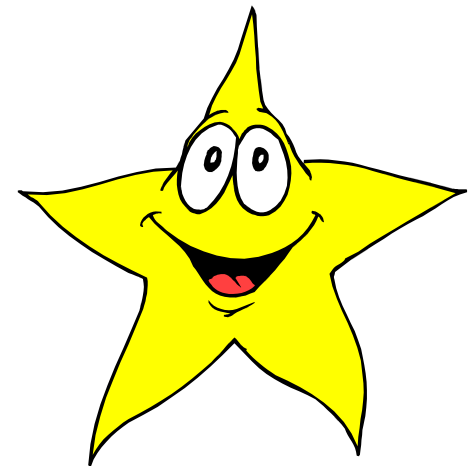
*George Bernard
Shaw*

Sentence Starters for Giving Praise and Encouragement

taken from <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/modules-archive/module1/handouts/3.pdf>

“You do a dynamite job of...”

- “You have really learned how to...”
- “You must feel proud of yourself for...”
- “Excellent idea for...”
- “You’ve done a wonderful job at...”
- “See how _____ has improved in...”
- “You have worked so hard...”
- “Look how well s/he did at...”
- “That’s a resourceful way of...”
- “WOW!! What a fabulous job you’ve done of...”
- “That’s a cool way to ...”
- “I’m so appreciative that you...”
- “It really pleases me when you...”
- “You’ve really grown up because you...”
- “You are a real problem solver for...”
- “Brilliant thinking for...”
- “Give me an EXTRA HUGE high five for...”
- “Class, I have an announcement! Let’s all give a hip, hip hooray to _____ for _____”
- “I really appreciate the way all of you have your eye on the story and are listening so carefully. It’s like you have eye-ball glue!!!”



Professional Development Opportunities - Social Skills Training

Social Skills Training for High Functioning Children with Asperger's

A program for social skills training for children with high functioning Asperger's Syndrome is planned for 1 October 2011. The program lasts ten weeks and is broadly based on Kim Painter's program. The ten sessions are:

(1) Co-ordination meeting, (2) greetings and introductions, (3) identifying emotions, (4) identifying facial expressions, (5) range of emotions, (6) tone of voice, (7) starting conversations, (8) basic conversational skills, (9) responding to others emotions and (10) phone skills.

Please note that this program is suitable for children without major behavioural problems. The program does not teach behavioural management. A peaceful and supportive environment is cultivated in this group so disruptive children will be either temporarily or permanently removed from the group.

The program will start October 1, 2011 and the planned group starting times are:

2:30pm-3:30pm for the 5-8 year olds.

4:00-5:00pm for the 8-12 year olds.

Fees: A \$40 per child fee per session. Bookings & details ph:0416157751

Location: The location is to be announced but will be based in Brisbane.

Website: www.socialskillstraining.com.au

Mark Sykes

Intern Psychologist and Registered Civil Celebrant BPsych(Hons), MBus, GradDip (Quality), B.Sc., Assoc. MAPS, CMC

PhD Candidate

Gecko House, 7 Reid Street, Woolloongabba Qld 4102



Positive Partnerships' Parents Course

Please be advised that the **Positive Partnerships' Parent Course** is now available as an on-line course. This course covers all the content from the one day Positive Partnerships' parent/carer workshop and includes video presentations from Positive Partnerships' facilitators, videos of parents and all resources and planning tools covered in the workshop. Feel free to distribute this information to any parent/carer who you feel would be interested in accessing this information on-line.

Information on behalf of Julie Hook, National Director, Positive Partnerships.

The website is <http://autismtraining.com.au>

ONLINE COURSE FOR PARENTS

Do you know a parent, family member, friend or colleague with a child on the Autism Spectrum?

If so, [click here ►](#) for information on our latest online course for parents.

Professional Development Opportunities—Play

Beginnings

Tax Invoice can be found on the following page

“You can
discover more
about a person
in an hour of
play than in a
year of
conversation.”



introduction to play therapy training

an introduction to working with children using creative media, including art, play equipment, psychodrama, symbols

Thursday 9 June 2011

Friday 10 June 2011

Friday 24 June 2011

Play is the natural and symbolic language of children.

Plato

Workshop One:

- Introduction to Play Therapy Models
- Developing the therapeutic relationship with the child
- Boundaries and Containment - when to say yes and no
- Using and exploring the medium - having fun & allowing ourselves to play.

Workshop Two:

- Developing my sense of self as a creative therapist
- Play and Attachment
- Working with trauma and the abused child
- More exploration of the play therapy methods

Workshop Three:

- What happens to me when I work with a child who ‘presses my buttons’?
- When is play no longer therapeutic?
- Working with silence
- Closure and Endings
- Continued exploration of the medium.

Workshop facilitator:

Nadine Littledale is a person-centred psychodrama psychotherapist, social worker, trainer and supervisor. She has over 36 years experience in social work and psychotherapy working with children and adults in both government services and private practice. Since arriving in Australia in 2006 she has worked for Queensland Health in Child and Youth Mental Health Services and in private practice. She regularly uses play therapy in her work with children.

These workshops are suitable for anyone working with children in a therapeutic or community context and who wish to develop their skills, understanding and awareness of how to work creatively with children.

Attendance on all 3 days is included in the price. This time together contributes to the emergence of a group identity which also assists in the experience of learning.

What: Experiential workshops, combining theory and practice.

When: 9, 10 & 24 June 2011.

Where: Mercy Place, Bardon, Brisbane (full address on confirmation).

Time: 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Cost: see attached.

TAX INVOICE

ABN: 72253779126

GST FREE

This training is popular and places are limited. Please apply early to avoid disappointment.

Fees	
Early bird rate To be paid by 20.5.11	\$615
Full rate To be paid by 6.6.2011	\$695

Includes Morning and Afternoon Refreshments and Vegetarian Lunch. Plus all materials.

To apply for a place please email your registration details (see below) to:
nadlittle@hotmail.com

Bank transfer details or address to send cheque will then be forwarded to you for payment. Please let me know if you require an additional invoice.

Your place will only be secured once payment has been made.

A letter of confirmation & receipt will then be sent. Refunds will not be issued unless requested 14 days before the start of the first day.

Enquiries can be made to Nadine on 0423 300 674.

Registration details	
Name:	
Position & Agency:	
Address:	
Phone:	Mobile:
Email:	
Any special dietary requirements:	



New Online ASD Resource

A new online resource has been launched - [ASD: What principals need to know](#)

What principals need to know about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), includes a definition of ASD, features and causes of ASD, organisational and management strategies for students with ASD and effective methods of supporting families and promoting positive relationships.

<http://mediasite.eq.edu.au/eq/Viewer/?peid=ala5821126fa465394aca89f2a6c3936>

Contact Details

Telephone: 0466363020

Postal Address:

PO Box 6469
Upper Mt Gravatt
Queensland 4122 Australia

Email: ecia-qld@bigpond.com

Website: ecia-qld.ecia.org.au

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

Better Start for Children Initiative

Dear stakeholder,

This email is to provide you with an update on the Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start) initiative, which is on track to be implemented by 1 July 2011.

The Better Start initiative is a new funding commitment by the Australian Government to assist eligible children to access funding for early intervention services. From 1 July 2011, children aged less than 6 years and who have been diagnosed with a sight or hearing impairment, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy or Fragile X syndrome will have access to funding and new Medicare items under the Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start) initiative. The initiative includes the following components:

- Funding for early intervention services for eligible children
- Medicare items for the development of a treatment and management plan for eligible children under the age of 13
- Medicare items for up to four allied health diagnostic services and for 20 relevant allied health services (in total) for eligible children up to the age of 15 (provided the treatment and management plan is in place before the age of 13).

We are pleased to be able to advise that the application process for the Better Start Early Intervention Service Provider Panel will open on Wednesday 20 April 2011. Application forms and supporting documents will be available on the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) website on this date. Applicants will need to be individuals or an organisation qualified and experienced in delivering early intervention services including speech pathology, audiology, occupational therapy, orthoptics, physiotherapy or psychology, and others deemed eligible under the initiative. Service providers will also be expected to be able to demonstrate experience in working with children with one or more of the listed disabilities.

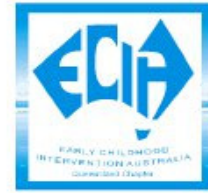
Parents and carers of eligible children will be able to register their child for the early intervention funding from 1 July 2011. The Department is currently establishing an independent Registration and Information Service (RIS) whose role will be to confirm a child's eligibility and register them for the Better Start early intervention funding. The contact details for the RIS will be placed on the FaHCSIA website in the weeks leading up to 1 July 2011.

The Department has developed fact sheets for parents and carers of eligible children and for service providers who are interested in joining the Better Start Early Intervention Service Provider Panel. The fact sheets are available for download on the FaHCSIA website www.fahcsia.gov.au/betterstart. Please feel free to distribute these fact sheets through your networks. The FaHCSIA website will continue to be updated with the further details about the Better Start initiative as they become available.

Kind regards

Better Start Team

ECIA Qld Chapter QIP Awards



EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION AWARENESS WEEK

Dinner and Awards Party

~ Date Saver ~

Tuesday 16th August 2011

Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Week is a national initiative developed to celebrate the work and commitment of families and professionals working with young children with disabilities.

You are invited to celebrate Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Week with your colleagues and friends at an evening, which promises to be both entertaining and informative.

Awards will be presented to recognise and celebrate the effective ways that individuals from a range of services and disciplines are working together and in partnership with families to ensure that young children with additional needs participate alongside their peers in prep, kindergarten, childcare and other community programs.

There will also be displays of practices supporting inclusive early childhood programs around Queensland.

The evening will also feature a quality Early Childhood Intervention guest speaker.

Venue: Kedron Wavell Service Club - Kedron

Time: 6.00 – 9.30 pm

To register your interest in attending this event, please post your registration of interest to:

Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Qld Chapter)
PO Box 6469
Upper Mt Gravatt QLD 4122
Or email schuptar@yahoo.com.au

Further information: Sandra Schuptar phone 0435 476 146 or email schuptar@yahoo.com.au
Katie Bartholemeaus phone 0410 682 468

Displays and Nominations for Awards

An opportunity to showcase your program or service will be available at the ECIA Awareness Week Dinner. You may also wish to nominate a program or service for an Award in Quality Inclusive Practice through an application process. Nominations close on Friday 15th July 2011 and recipients will be announced at the Awareness Week Dinner Party. If you join as a member for this function your membership will be valid through till the end of 2012. ECIA Membership costs \$40 per year.



Early Childhood Intervention Australia 2011 Awards for Quality Inclusive Practice

The ECIA Awards for Quality Inclusive Practice aim to identify and promote the effective ways that individuals from a range of services and disciplines are working together and in partnership with families to ensure that young children with additional needs participate alongside their peers in prep, kindergarten, childcare and other community programs.

We invite you to share some aspect of your program or service that contributes to the provision of inclusive early childhood programs in Queensland. Nominations must specifically address the nominated category of practice and include materials suitable for public display.

Submission Process:

Submissions should be no more than 1000 words or 15 minutes DVD and should include

- Overall description of the program or service
- Photos, video clips or powerpoint presentation
- Description of nominated area of practice and rationale for nomination, including:
 - Which significant factors in the program or service or community environment promote the practice?
 - What needs are addressed by the practice?
 - What outcomes are evident from the practice?
 - What other evidence supports the practice, e.g. research literature
 - Evidence of endorsement from the parent community or others about how this practice has made a difference for young children.

Send nomination to: ECIA Achievement Awards 2011
Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Qld Chapter)
PO Box 6469
Upper Mt Gravatt QLD 4122
Fax: (07) 3041 6988

Closing Date: Friday 15th July 2011

Further information: *Sandra Schuptar* ph 0435 476 146 or email schuptar@yahoo.com.au
Katie Bartholomaeus phone 0410 682 468 or email kbarty10@yahoo.com.au
Deb Smith phone 0418 734 691

NOMINATION FORM

Name of nominated individual/program/service.....

Nominated Area of Practice: (please tick one)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - centred practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training and development | <input type="checkbox"/> Program design | <input type="checkbox"/> Team approach |

Contact personPhone:

Fax:Email:

I/We submit a nomination which has addressed the nominated area of practice and includes materials suitable for public display.

Signature of NomineeDate.....



Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Queensland Chapter) Inc

Presents a one day Professional Development Seminar

Myth or Mastery?

The Pros and Cons of Positive Reinforcement

This workshop will explore the case for, and the case against, positive reinforcement. Participants will be introduced to a range of ideas that effectively encourage desired behaviour. Practical classroom strategies will be discussed and some will be displayed.

Circle Time for Social Emotional Learning

Circle Time is a pedagogical approach proven to develop social/emotional skills, positive behaviour, speaking and listening skills and school connectedness. It has been shown to build resilience, self-esteem, mutual respect, foster empathy, reduce bullying and assist in the development of relationships.

This Circle Time workshop will:

- Introduce the history, philosophy and principles underpinning Circle Time
- Outline components of Circle Time for Social and Emotional Learning

Both Sessions

Presented by Felicity Day and Marilyn James - Behavior Support Consultants, Education Queensland

Audience: Anyone who works with children. Teachers – Early Childhood, Primary and High School, Teacher Aides, Specialist Teachers, Special Education, Learning Support

Felicity Day has worked as an Early Years Educator for over fifteen years, with the last three as a Behaviour Support Consultant working pro-actively with teachers, administrators and schools around preventing behaviour challenges in Prep and the Early Years classes through the Engage Early Learners initiative.

Marilyn James' passion, work and study have focused on Early Childhood for over 30 years. Her experience includes preschool teacher and Teacher-in-Charge, Director of Child Care Centre, Advisory Visiting Teacher Early Special Education and Behaviour Support Consultant. She currently works in the Management of Young Children Program - MYCP - and as a Triple P facilitator working individually with parents and school groups.

Saturday 23 July 2011

Registration 8:30am. Workshop session 9:00am to 2:45pm

Positive Reinforcement 9:00am to 12:00pm Circle Time 12.45pm to 2:45pm

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

Members \$90 Non-Members \$110 inc GST (inc morning tea & light lunch)

Morning or afternoon session only — Members \$60 Non Members \$70 inc GST

To register—see overpage

Registration enquiries & to check seating availability phone Bernie (07) 3720 0952

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

Session content enquiries phone Katie 0410 682 468



Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Queensland Chapter) Inc

ABN: 81 143 010 743

Professional Development Session Registration

Saturday 23 July 2011

Registration 8:30am. Workshop session 9:00am to 2:45pm

Positive Reinforcement 9:00am to 12:00pm Circle Time 12:45pm to 2:45pm

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

Members \$90 Non-Members \$110 inc GST (inc morning tea & light lunch)

Morning or afternoon session only — Members \$60 Non Members \$70 inc GST

To register

Step 1 Register your interest and check seating availability
Email eciaqld@bigpond.com
Phone (07) 3720 0952 Wed & Thurs 9am to 3pm

*** Please note: THIS DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE AT THE SESSION*

Step 2 Fill in and return this Registration Form
Step 3 Pay to confirm your place by Direct Deposit, Cheque or Money Order. *Sorry, no credit cards accepted*

Step 4 Your place at this session will be confirmed by an email from ECIA Qld

Registration enquiries phone (07) 3720 0952 Wed & Thurs 9am to 3pm,
other times leave a message

Content enquiries phone 0410 682 468

Registration

Name: _____ Workplace: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please tick one

Payment Amount: \$ _____

I will attend both sessions
Morning session only
Afternoon session only

Direct Deposit (BSB 804 002. Acc 1208999 Account Name: ECIA Qld)

Reference - *Your name (ie John Smith)*

Please inform us of your EFT payment via email to eciaqld@bigpond.com, including the receipt number, PD session date and date of transfer.

Cheque Money Order *Cheques & money orders are payable to ECIA Qld.*

Invoice *If you require us to invoice your workplace please provide the following details:*

Workplace: _____ Contact person: _____

Contact email: _____ ABN: _____

Post ECIA, PO BOX 6469, Upper Mt Gravatt Qld 4122
Fax (07) 3041 6988 Email eciaqld@bigpond.com

Registration enquiries Bernie (07) 3720 0952 Wed & Thurs 9am-3pm, other times leave a message
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