



# C&K Sunshine Coast Early Childhood Conference

Saturday, 21 March 2009, University of the Sunshine Coast, Sippy Downs



*Where children come first*

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University of the Sunshine Coast, Sippy Downs

Cnr Stringybark Rd and Sippy Downs Drv

## PROGRAM

**8.15am** Registration and coffee – displays will be available for your perusal

**9.00am** Opening address by C&K CEO Barrie Elvish

**9.15am** Keynote speaker: Dr Margaret Sims

***Neurobiology, child development and program planning***

Neurobiological research has given us a “scientific” framework for the work we do with young children. We know that experiences in the early years impact on brain wiring and shape future child outcomes. We know the quality of the child rearing environment, in the home and in child care, is extremely important. How do we use this knowledge to shape our practice? In this session Margaret will review the evidence around the importance of the early years and what is known about factors in the environment that have the greatest impact on child outcomes.

**10.15am** Morning tea / displays

**10.45am – 12.00pm** Session 1 (Selection of workshops)

***Factors in the environment that impact on planning and programming - Dr Margaret Sims***

This workshop will follow on from the keynote address looking at the research on how the quality of the child rearing environment in the home and in child care impacts on children and what it means for the practitioner.

***Wonders and possibilities: potentials in the natural environment - Consultants at Play***

Research suggests that in order for children to understand environmental issues such as sustainability, they need experiences in the natural environment. This workshop will explore strategies for educators to help support children’s connection and engagement with the natural environment.

***Avoiding attachment disorder - Carole Mitchell***

Healing childhood emotional injuries and providing informed quality caregiving in the early years is a sure step toward avoiding Reactive Attachment Disorder, in teenagers and young adults. All our children deserve to receive love and support from kind adults/parents and every society deserves to have mentally healthy citizens who are willing and able to contribute positively to the community.

***The role of the outdoor teacher at Mia Mia - Janet Robertson***

Ensuring that children experience and develop an affinity with the outdoors is essential for the wellbeing of the planet. The question is what kind of outdoors? This presentation will examine the role of a specialist outdoor teacher in an early childhood program. This role encompasses design, maintenance, curriculum, materials and relationships.

**12.00pm – 1.15pm** Session 2 (Selection of workshops)

***Setting up a studio space - Suallyn Mitchelmore***

A studio space within a playroom or classroom is far more than a place for art making. By providing children with a hands-on environment and opportunity to select from a wide range of authentic materials, resources and methods, it becomes a dynamic area – a lab/studio/library/museum/workshop in one. This session will explore practical ways to establish a studio space that invites young children to engage in complex thinking, test out ideas and explore their understanding of the world.

***Enacting early childhood priorities: working in integrated ways in early childhood education, health and social inclusion - Professor Ann Farrell***

This workshop invites participants to engage, in practical ways, with early childhood priorities such as early childhood education, health and social inclusion. Participants will have

opportunities to work together to map out strategies of working in integrated ways with children and families. The session will provide multi-media stimulus for exploring integrated approaches to health, education and social inclusion for young children and their families, as well as for early childhood practitioners.

***Beyond cultural diversity - Will PA Jones***

"It's okay, we don't have any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children, we don't have any refugees, we don't even have any Jehovah's Witnesses, so we don't need to 'do' culture or have a cultural program, after all, we don't want to be tokenistic do we?" This interactive workshop will explore cultural inclusion in all socio-cultural contexts. It calls upon participants to reflect on their own socio-cultural settings. The aim of this workshop is to affirm and inspire everyone to create a truly authentic culture of leadership in their services using a truly inclusive cultural framework.

***Infectious diseases in early childhood settings - Deb Neucom/Dr Andrew Langley***

At home, children are reasonably well protected from infectious diseases because they don't come in contact with many people. Spending time in early childhood services and being exposed to a large number of children for some time provides an opportunity for infectious diseases to be spread. This session is an informative and practical workshop regarding infections and how they are spread, how to prevent the spread of infections and practical infection control methods in the early childhood settings.

**1.15pm**                      **Lunch**

**2.15pm – 3.30pm**        **Session 3 (Selection of workshops)**

***Building waterfalls – documentation within early childhood - Danielle Stiff***

*Building waterfalls* identifies that documentation is a powerful tool for viewing the learning processes of both adults and children. It can take on many different forms and the trick is to choose a style that suits the purpose and context. This interactive workshop will look at the variety of different styles of documentation and their use while developing a portfolio with and alongside the child. Come along with an open mind.

***What is loss and grief? - Liz Crowe***

This workshop will look at loss and grief experiences for young children and why it is crucial for staff working in early childhood to understand loss and grief in children. Liz will examine theories of loss and grief and common reactions for children experiencing loss and grief, and provide practical strategies for dealing with a "crisis" in an early childhood setting.

***The role of the outdoor teacher at Mia Mia (repeat) - Janet Robertson***

Ensuring that children experience and develop an affinity with the outdoors is essential for the wellbeing of the planet. The question is what kind of outdoors? This presentation will examine the role of a specialist outdoor teacher in an early childhood program. This role encompasses design, maintenance, curriculum, materials and relationships.

***"Tell us a story!" The how and why of storytelling for young children - Louise Phillips***

Louise shares many solutions to maintaining the attention of active young minds (and bodies), as well as how to choose a suitable story for different age groups and mixed age groups. This workshop will be a great opportunity for participants to share what works and query what didn't work when telling stories to young children. You will hear a variety of suitable stories for young children that explore a range of storytelling skills. Participants will also have the opportunity to try out new ideas and strategies themselves through group storytelling.

**3.30pm – 4.30pm**        **Keynote speaker: Dr Robi Sonderegger**

***The link between nutrition and behaviour***

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

Refunds will be given where the participant suffers illness (a medical certificate may be required), gives advance notice of withdrawal, or withdraws for any reason prior to or during the conference. Where advance warning is given (one week or more prior to commencement of the conference), an administration fee of 10 per cent will apply. If withdrawal occurs during the week prior to commencement of the conference and in the absence of valid and/or extraordinary circumstances a 50 per cent refund will apply. In the case of illness and valid and/or extraordinary circumstances, after the commencement of the conference, fees will be refunded on a pro rata basis as agreed to between the participant and the Association. Participants are advised that the right to appeal applies on decisions relating to the refunding of fees.

## About C&K

- Since 1907 C&K has educated and cared for more than 1 million children.
- We are the only statewide early childhood association with credentials of a standard high enough to be recognised and funded by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA).
- With more than 400 DETA funded centres and child-related services for families with young children across the state, C&K is Queensland's largest and longest established community based early childhood association.
- All C&K services offer Australia's first collaborative birth to school age curriculum, *Building waterfalls*, developed in consultation with DETA and the Queensland Studies Authority.
- As a not-for-profit association, all profits are reinvested to benefit children and the community.



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C&K – proudly recognised and funded by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts



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