

The Geelong Kindergarten Teachers Centre
Proudly Presents...

'Building Blocks for Early Years'



the

**2011 Annual Kindergarten Teachers and
Assistants Conference**

Date: Wednesday 1st June 2011

Time: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Venue: Barrabool Hills Baptist Church

4-46 Province Boulevard Highton

[Melways Reference 450 K7]

Cost: \$80 per person

Please take time to view all the workshops available and remember that registrations need to be received by

Wednesday 25th of May

Sharing Ideas...



This year it is our intention to produce a **FREE** resource CD, for each conference participant, of inspirational learning ideas and spaces. The success of this relies on your participation. We know that there are wonderful things happening in centres all over our region and ask that you send in photos [jpeg format] of activities that have worked really well, beautiful play spaces and play settings. Please be mindful that we cannot use photos that have the children identifiable in them. Please email these as attachments to GEYConference@hotmail.com

'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'



In support of The Cancer Council, the GKTC Committee invites you to consider making a donation while you enjoy your morning tea.

We hope you are excited by the options we present to you for this year's conference, and look forward to seeing you all on conference day,

Kind Regards

The GKTC Conference Committee

Adele Holden, Berna Johnson, Jane Wilson, Janise Lothian, Karen Pritchard, Kate Wilks, Rosemary Coverdale and Tania O'Hanlon

* If you have contact with colleagues could you please check that they have received this information. If not, could they please contact Bernadette Johnson at GEYConference@hotmail.com immediately so we can add them to our contact list, and forward the conference information to them.

2011 Conference Program

- 8.00 a.m. Registration begins.
- 8.30 a.m. Welcome.
 - “Housekeeping”
 - Lucky Ticket Draw
- 8.45 a.m. Transition time to Workshop Session 1
- 9.00 a.m. Workshop Session 1
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Tea & Displays
- 11.15 a.m. Workshop Session 2
- 12.45 p.m. Lunch & Displays
- 2.00 p.m. Keynote Address – Michael Carr-Gregg
- 3.30 p.m. Finish

Exhibitors

- Heather Munroe [Music Resources]
- Toadstool Lane
- Lego
- Child's Play
- Modern Teaching Aids
- Carol & Gary Crees [Music Resources]
- Dizzy Toys
- T&P Preschool Equipment
- “Little Wrap Bag”
- Roaming Reptiles

Sessions and Speakers

Keynote Speaker – Michael Carr Gregg

Always look on the Bright Side of Life With Michael Carr-Gregg

Michael is one of Australia's highest profile psychologists and he is coming to our conference in Geelong. Michael has worked in private practice as a family therapist, child psychologist and clinical psychologist, as an academic, researcher and spent 4 years working as a political lobbyist.

In an invigorating and thought provoking 90 minutes Michael will address the issue of bullying, boys and all things preschool.

To ensure we receive the best of Michael Carr-Gregg we invite you to send your relevant questions via email with your conference registration.



Workshops

Participants are invited to select **TWO** sessions from the following workshop choices available [plus a backup selection in case first options are not available].

Irresistible Play Spaces: Sherry Hutton & Donna Burns



‘No Play, No Learning – Know Play, Know Learning’.
Together Sherry and Donna run ‘irresistible ideas for play based learning’, a blog designed to inspire and assist parents, tertiary students of the early childhood sector and teachers who follow a developmental curriculum.

While teaching preschool together for many years in Melbourne, Australia, they followed the mantra “Make it Irresistible”. As it is not always easy to find exciting, irresistible and appropriate ideas for children in the early learning years, they decided that they would like to share with everyone some of the ideas their students have enjoyed over the years through their very visual blog. Sherry and Donna regularly run workshops for teachers' groups, conferences and professional development days on a wide variety of educational topics.

Check out their blog at

<http://www.playbasedlearning.com.au/>

Serious Fun with LEGO Education – Libby Moore



Construction facilitates a naturally positive learning experience. As children actively construct things they build knowledge and understanding in their minds. In this LEGO Education workshop teachers will see how presenting children with a problem or a challenge to solve with DUPLO or LEGO, will encourage imagination, problem solving and cooperative learning skills.

Libby has been involved in Education for over 20 years. As a LEGO Education consultant she has inspired teachers to use LEGO resources to motivate children to play an active role in their own learning process.

Music for Learning – Heather Monro



Heather is conducting two different workshops.

Workshop 1- Music for life: Music for developing foundation skills; The importance of music and movement and developing essential learning areas – motor, language, visual and creativity.

Workshop 2 - Fresh, Fun Music for young Children.

(Fun, multi sensory learning - developing essential movement skills, including physical, visual, linguistic, aural and musical; extending memory, creative thinking, social skills and music that supports learning - moving with the beat, understanding rhythm and utilizing melody).

Heather Monro [Dip Tching IECD, Grad Cert Orff Schulwerk (Melb) Director of Kids Music Company, Australia], has taught kindergarten for 30 years and has been running KMC since 2002 in Australia. She runs teacher's and children's workshop, and also presents at different conferences around Australia. Kids Music Company is a New Zealand based company with global offices in Australia, Britain Hong Kong and Singapore. Award winners for Quality educational music 2003 to 2009.



"Wrigglers, Fidgeters and Distractible kids - why do they do it and how can we help!" – Kelly Powell



This workshop looks at sensory processing and the impact on behaviour. You will look at some important sensory systems (including several which you may know little about) and learn how they impact directly on how children behave. It is essential that all children have an optimal level of arousal so that they can process what's happening internally and externally. This helps them adapt to changes in the environment and to learn and develop new skills.

Strategies and things that we can do will also be discussed.

Kelly Powell has been a Paediatric Occupational Therapist for more than 20 years. She has worked in a range of settings in Australia, the UK and USA. Kelly currently has her own private practice in Geelong (Amazing Kids OT) and also lectures at Deakin University. Kelly has given many workshops around the state on Sensory Processing and its impact on behaviour.

Yogaplay and Relaxation for Young Children [3-6 years] - Gary and Carol Creees



Gary and Carol will be taking two separate workshops.

Workshop 1: Yogaplay

For teachers interested in introducing the benefits of yoga into a classroom setting with children 3-6 years; yoga poses & sequences can be a playful, non-competitive way to aid children's need for strength, flexibility, balance, co-ordination and relaxation.

Our emphasis in this workshop is on creative play & varied movement activities. Simple object and animal postures are used in songs, simple sequences and stories. The movement ideas are balanced with massage and relaxation ideas to support calmness, focus, and good health for young children.

Workshop2:BrainDance

Movement milestones for fun & learning (3-6 years)
BrainDance, from a body of work by Anne Green Gilbert, describes eight movement patterns to reflect the movement milestones that humans move through in the first year of life, to "wire the central nervous system so the brain can operate to its full potential" (Gilbert).

The underlying assumption in BrainDance is that movement is a child's first language and the more eloquent he or she becomes in this language, the quicker they develop powers of expression, reading and writing skills and higher cognitive thinking.

We will revisit these movement patterns through music; in songs, rhymes and dances, to assist brain function and promote optimal learning for young children. Moving through the BrainDance patterns on a regular basis ensures all movement milestones are well established in the brain's wiring. This helps with pre-reading skills and can be used as a focus tool before activities that demand concentration.

Carol & Gary are early childhood music & movement educators providing professional development training for early childhood teachers and carers in a range of topics. Both Carol and Gary have degrees in psychology, sociology and a diploma of education. Carol has a Masters in Early Childhood Studies specialising in music and young children's development. Gary is also a qualified yoga teacher and has trained in other wellbeing modalities

adventuresinmusic.com.au

Learning Stories - Juineta Kirby



There can be a great deal of fun and sharing when Learning Stories are incorporated into a programme. Staff, parents and children can benefit from the experiences and of course they are relevant to The Early Years Framework. Juineta's background in the Reggio Emilia and Rudolf Steiner teachings and over 30 years of involvement in the early childhood sector are important underlying threads in this presentation.

Juineta Kirby is well qualified to speak on Early Childhood matters. As well as her many academic qualifications, Juineta comes with a wealth of rich and varied life, and work, experiences that will underpin what she has to share at this workshop – including being a 'National & Victorian Awardee 'National Excellence in Teaching Award' – 2004.