SCAN Conference
Wollongong

Saturday 24 August 2013

Chifley Wollongong,
60-62 Harbour Street,
Wollongong

Include Me.
Child and Family
Inclusion Programs.
<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>8:30-9:00</td>
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| 9:00-11:00 | **Miriam Guigni:**
               Becoming worldly: Stories about inclusion and social justice in early childhood |
| 11:00-11:30| Morning tea                                                           |
| 11:30-1:00 | **Anne-Marie Cooper, Learning Links:**
               Chronic sorrow as a living loss: Working with families with a child with a disability |
| 1:00-1:30  | Lunch                                                                 |
| 1:30-3:30  | **Grace Fava and Melissa Smith:**
               Walk a mile in my shoes: Fostering positive relationships between parents and educators |
Miriam Guigni

Abstract

Becoming worldly: Stories about inclusion and social justice in early childhood

This presentation is based wholly on the research of early childhood educators. These stories offer a range of different insights into how early childhood educators from a vast array of backgrounds approach inclusive practices and issues of social justice.

The power of these stories is that each of them offers a different perspective on inclusive practices and social justice issues which, in line with the EYLF, illustrates that having diversity of perspectives is critical to our everyday work.

Each of these stories engages with particular worldviews, theories and philosophies that shape the relationship between the educators, children and families. These relationships generate curriculum and so are critical to learning. Too often inclusive practices and social justice issues have been separated from the core business of children’s learning or educator’s learning.

The stories that form this presentation illustrate that learning about inclusion in inclusive ways is necessary if we are to grow a generation of children who are knowledgeable and attuned to the range of diversities and differences that not only surround them but shape who they can become.

Bio

Miriam Giugni began her life in the early childhood community as an untrained assistant. She has an Associate Diploma in Social Science (Child Studies) from Moss Vale TAFE, Bachelor of Education Early Childhood (Honours), University of Western Sydney. She graduated with her PhD from the University of Melbourne.

Miriam enjoys working across many facets of the early childhood community. She has worked with children in centre based educational settings for 20 years. She was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Canberra and she is an independent consultant. Miriam is also part of Goodstart Early Learning. Miriam publishes her research and teaching narratives internationally. She is passionate about social justice and equity, ethics and politics. She is an active member of the Social Justice in Early Childhood group and the Sydney Critical Curriculum Community.
Anne-Marie Cooper, Learning Links

Abstract
Chronic sorrow as a living loss: Working with families with a child with a disability

Often case-management focuses on the ‘here and now’ needs of clients and sees a return to a program in the future as a failure of client empowerment. However, when working with families with a child with a disability the acknowledgement of the impact of this on their lives, including the ongoing need for support, can be viewed differently when theory informs practice.

Chronic sorrow is a natural grief reaction to losses that are not final but continue to be present in the life of the griever, and presents as cyclical or recurring sadness which is exacerbated at critical points in the child’s life. As such, case managers can expect to reengage with families regularly over a child’s life, which also presents opportunities for services for different forms of support at different points in time. This model presents a flexible, needs-based approach for families which is informed by theory and evidence.

This discussion is aimed at professionals who work or have contact with parents of children with a disability and provides a framework for understanding the grief that parents experience and how to work with it.

Bio
Anne-Marie is a Psychologist who also has a background in early childhood field, and has worked as a presenter for over 20 years. Anne-Marie received a first-class honours degree in Psychology and is finalising her PhD in the area of Cognitive Neuroscience.

Anne-Marie is a published academic author which includes a book chapter from her PhD thesis and has presented at conferences both within Australia and Washington D.C. Anne-Marie has won two academic awards and has a wide range of interests.
Grace Fava and Melissa Smith

Abstract
Walk a mile in my shoes: Fostering positive relationships between parents and educators.

Have you ever tried to discuss a child’s welfare or possible medical issues with a parent only to be ignored, reprimanded or have the parent remove the child from the service?

Grace and Melissa will discuss their personal experiences along with professional strategies on how best to foster open communication and relationships with families in order to achieve the best outcome for each child.

They will also discuss the importance of forming partnerships with families to maximise the child’s full potential.

Bio - Grace Fava CLO, JP
Founder and President Autism Advisory and Support Service (AASS)

Grace is the proud mother of two beautiful, cheeky boys aged 10 and 8 who both have Autism and Global Developmental Delay. Her passion for assisting others grew when she found it difficult to find interventions for her children and to navigate the maze of service providers and information overload.

After sourcing assistance for her children, Grace formed AASS in 2007 together with an amazing group of parents of children with Autism. AASS started as a local self help group and quickly grew to an organisation that assist families around Australia and overseas through services including Australia’s only 24 Hour Autism Hotline, support groups in various languages, social groups for young adults, social skills therapy groups and art groups.

AASS does not receive recurrent Government funding, is run by volunteers (even Grace) and relies heavily on donations and fundraising to keep their invaluable service running.

Grace is responsible for the day to day running of AASS and overseeing all aspects of the organisation.
Bio - Melissa Smith
Melissa is a proud mother to Isabella, Lili and Jett. Lili was diagnosed with a rare brain disorder aged 8 months “Complete agenesis of the corpus callosum” as well as other diagnosis. It was this experience that changed the way she saw the world.

As a parent Melissa has encountered many barriers “the dreams you have for your children are suddenly limited, your child is seen as a burden and as a parent you are pitied”. It is these wrongs that Melissa wants to set right.

Melissa is a strong advocate for children with disabilities and attends forums and workshops to further her cause. She is on ADHC’s Restrictive Practice Panel, Interchange Management Committee and speaks regularly to TAFE classes.

Melissa has spoken at the World Forum in Melbourne on social inclusion for people with a disability, the Australasian Intellectual Disability Council Conference as well as ‘Transition to School’ workshops, ‘Living with a disability’ playgroup and other community initiatives.

A short film created by Melissa, “Lili Can” was entered into a National Short Film Competition came runner up with over 54 000 votes from around the world. The film focussed on ability rather than disability. It was recently used as an introduction to all meetings across the state for the rollout for the Stronger Together2 funding package. It was sent nationally to all Starlight offices with a special thank you from the CEO and has also been used for training in the medical profession.

Melissa was awarded ‘Carer of the Year ‘in 2012 for her local area and was nominated for ‘Australian of the Year’ in 2013.

trade displays

Autism Advisory and Support Service (AASS)
AASS is a not-for-profit charity that offers a range of services for parents of children with Autism. AASS will display a range of sensory, motivator and cause and effect toys, books and gifts at friendly prices. All proceeds from sales will assist AASS to implement other programs for children with Autism.

Pademelon Press
getting there

Chifley Wollongong

60-62 Harbour Street
Wollongong
(02) 4201 2111

Chifley Wollongong is a new hotel and conference venue located 1½ hours drive from Sydney on the scenic NSW South Coast.

The hotel is situated on Wollongong’s foreshore, adjacent to WIN Sports and Entertainment Centre.

Parking is available in the surrounding streets and council operated car parks.
The NSW Government funds Include Me to be the SCAN organisation in the Southern NSW and Metro South West Sydney Community Services networks.

Our aim is to assist services to increase their capacity to support access opportunities and the inclusion of children with additional needs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Through the provision of professional development opportunities, advice and resources, services are assisted to build their knowledge and confidence to offer quality, inclusive environments.

The SCAN program assists children with additional needs to participate in available activities and have the same opportunities as others to participate, belong, develop and succeed.

For more conference information, phone Lucy Ladic on (02) 4283 9919 or Julia Caltabiano on (02) 4283 9944