

Engaging Curriculum Solutions

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Professional Learning Guide



www.engagingcurriculumsolutions.com.au

About Kate



Engaging Curriculum Solutions is Kate's baby. After over 20 years working in services and engaging in research, Kate wanted to share her knowledge with others and ECS was born. She believes passionately in the importance of advocacy and this is her way of giving back to the sector, children and families. Kate presents all of the ECS professional development events and she loves bringing her experience in to training,

Throughout her years in the sector, Kate has come to be known for her passion and her commitment to quality learning practices and environments, her greatest passion is for trauma informed education. She has developed a great knowledge of the Assessment and Rating process through participating in service ratings as an educator, regional manager, quality consultant and as an NS/EL directing a service through the A&R process receiving exceeding in all the quality areas and standards. In terms of philosophy, anyone who has spoken to Kate or heard her speak will know, it all comes down to one thing for her - best outcomes for children.

Kate has been a great advocate for the sector, using her knowledge and experience to help inform the community. Through meetings with politicians, writing for unions and speaking at sector events such as the PCI hearings, Kate has given a voice to educators in Australia. Kate has also written for Early Childhood Australia's The Spoke, Tapestry Online Learning Journals and the ECS blog.



Why Engaging Curriculum Solutions

Engaging Curriculum Solutions understands the early childhood sector is constantly changing and evolving as we build our understanding of child development. We understand the importance of staying up to date on current events and trends in the sector. We endeavour to assist services in doing just that through our early childhood professional development opportunities and consultancy services. Further to this, we are driven by the National Quality Standards and Early Years Learning Framework, ensuring our business not only supports best outcomes for children, but the assessment and rating process.

At ECS we have a strong image of the child as being an active participant in the construction of their own learning and this is what we hope to impart on others. Our philosophy is underpinned by our understanding of child development (particularly brain development and what we have learnt from children impacted by trauma) and early childhood theory. In particular, the Reggio Emilia approach has had a huge impact on ECS practice and is the primary influence throughout our services. Engaging Curriculum Solutions believes in the importance of scaffolding children's understanding of sustainable living practices and encouraging their connection with the wonders of nature. We believe best practice should be embedded in to routine, culture, curriculum, relationships and leadership and we hope to help services achieve this.

As a consultancy and professional development service we recognise every early childhood service is unique and we aim to properly understand your service needs. We realise services are impacted by their local community, their leaders, educators, families and children; and all these stakeholders have to be taken in to account to achieve high quality early childhood education and care. ECS values the importance of individual service and educator philosophy. We take this in to account when designing professional development and consultancy packages.

Our early childhood professional development sessions seek to engage and inspire educators to find their own pedagogical beliefs and systems. We do not believe in giving the answers, but in finding the answers together. As early childhood specialists we highly regard the process of collaboration and scaffolding.



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Feedback From The Field

"Wow! What a session. What a presenter. Thank you so much for explaining those with exposure to trauma and the strategies!" - Anon, Educator

"Kate is such an information facilitator, I really enjoyed my training from her in Trauma." - Ellen, Educator

"I love [the theory] training. And the way it was presented... very engaging, I would definitely recommend for everyone." - Anna, Educator

"Kate is an amazing, insightful and dedicated professional with a wealth of knowledge. Her passion for Early Childhood Education combined with her extensive experience in the sector makes her a huge asset to the industry. Kate's sessions provoke powerful, passionate discussions to improve the way we interact, engage and educate.... I could honestly listen to Kate for hours!" Michelle, Director

"Absolutely amazing. Well thought out presentations. Kate is very passionate and will take the time to ensure you fully understand the topic." - Mariah, Educator

"I have attended 2 of Kate's trainings now and she is by far the most amazing, engaging presenter I've ever had. So much passion, enthusiasm and knowledge to gain from her courses". Christina, EL

"It doesn't matter how long I spend with Kate - whether it is 5 minutes or the whole day, she is always able to make me think deeply about my interactions with children, educators and families.... I cannot recommend Kate more to anyone who wants to challenge their thinking and ideas about early childhood and you will be amazed at what you come away with." Emily, Director

"Kate is one of the most knowledgeable, inspiring, and passionate people I have ever met! The professional developments I have attended with Kate have ignited great passion within me, and remind me to reflect and strive for best practice." - Micayla, Educator

Curriculum and Pedagogy



Inspiring Play Spaces in Early Childhood (Available in 2hr, 3hr or 6hr options)

In this professional learning experience we explore ways in which to create a fluid and engaging environment which is rich with natural opportunities for learning. We discuss principles from different approaches including Montessori and Reggio Emilia.



Magic Moments - the Pedagogy of Play (Available in 2hr or 6hr options)

Play is integral to early childhood learning and development and is the basis of the pedagogical practices outlined in our national curriculum. Play provides the platform for sustained learning and engagement. In this professional learning experience we will explore theories and principles of play, the neuroscience of play and promoting the importance of play to families and communities.



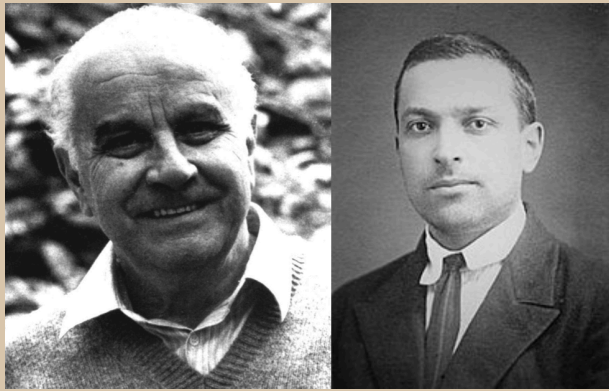
Exploring Art in Early Childhood (Available in 2hr option only)

This professional development workshop is designed to engage educators in the process of creativity with children. We will discuss different art forms and mediums, and how these can be used and applied in an early childhood setting. This session is heavily influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach to fostering creativity.



Music and Movement in Early Childhood (Available in 2hr and 3hr options)

This is not your typical music and movement professional development. In this session we will discuss the effects of engaging in music and movement on brain development. We will also discuss how different games and songs can be used to effectively engage children in their learning and development.



Theory to Practice: Exploring Early Childhood Theorists (Available in 2hr-7hr options)

This is one of our most popular choices! The NQS expects all educators to have an understanding of the theory that underpins our national curriculum (EYLF). In this professional learning experience we will explore a range of theory and approaches including (but not limited to) Piaget, Vygotsky, Bruner, Dewey, Gardner, Montessori, Steiner, and the Reggio Emilia approach. We can adapt the choice of theorists to reflect your service philosophy.



Literacy, Drama and Storytelling (Available in 2hr or 3hr options)

This professional learning workshop is designed to engage educators in early literacy learning through immersion. We will discuss ways in which to embed literacy in to the classroom through drama, books and more. We invite you to join an ECS group time and learn ways to truly engage children in literacy learning.



Spotlight on Principles and Practices (Available in a 7hr option only)

The revised NQS expects all educators to have an understanding of the principles and practices of the Early Years Learning Framework. It's not just about outcomes anymore! In this full day professional learning experience we will explore all the principles and practices of the EYLF, how to embed these into your culture, and what they look like in documentation. It's like 15 subjects in one!

Child Development and Wellbeing



Big Feelings, Little People: Supporting Emotional Growth and Challenging Behaviours (Available in 2hr-6hr options)

Another popular choice, this professional learning experience goes in to the ways in which emotions develop and occur in the brain. Learn how to support children in expressing emotions effectively, how to work with challenging behaviours in both the short and long term, and the importance of self-care throughout.



Healing Hearts, Growing Minds: Brain Development and the Impact of Trauma (Available in 2hr-6hr options)

This is our passion subject at ECS! It explores how brain development is impacted by toxic stress and complex trauma in the early years. We focus on the importance of human connection on a child's ability to effectively engage in learning and development. Kate uses her experience as a trauma survivor to bring the material to life. Learn trauma informed strategies, including mindfulness, that can really make a difference in children's lives.



Risky Play in Early Childhood (Available in a 2hr option)

Risky play is becoming an increasingly recognised important form of play in early childhood. Taking from the work of Sandseter, we will use this professional learning experience to discuss the different categories of risky play, the benefits of each and how we can minimise the risk in this type of play without eliminating all the fun!



Transitions Through Life and Learning (Available in a 2hr option)

Embedding fluid transitions and preparing children for their big transition to formal schooling is something which is of the utmost importance in early childhood. Transitions occur throughout all age groups and help prepare children for the bigger change coming their way. We will discuss ways for preparing children for their future transitions through life and learning.



Working with Children with Additional Needs (Available in 2hr-6hr options)

Working with children with additional needs can be challenging and requires understanding of the need in question. In this session we will discuss a range of needs and the strategies we can employ to work with children and their families. We will discuss ways to identify additional needs, work with families towards assessment, the circle of security, education and family plans, as well as strategies for regulation.

Leadership and Quality



Embedding a Culture of Quality Improvement - the QIP and so much more.

(Available in 2hr-6hr options)

Our quality improvement process is what drives the change and development of your service. In this professional learning experience we will look at techniques that can be applied to writing a strong, organic quality improvement plan, and how as a team, you can embed quality improvement in to the culture of your service.



Documentation and Curriculum Planning

(Available in 2hr-6hr options)

There's too much paperwork! It's a complaint we hear all the time in early childhood, but it's all about prioritising and time management. In this session we will go through the planning cycle, discussing effective ways of planning for and documenting learning which don't take time away from the children!



I'm An Educator, Hear Me Roar! Team building and empowerment session.

(Available in 2hr or 3hr options)

In this professional learning workshop we will work with your team to get them inspired, engaged and working collaboratively. The session includes both team building exercises and empowerment/engagement exercises around the EYLF.



Educational Leader

(Available in 6hr option, also available in 8hr individual training)

In this professional learning experience we go in to what it takes to be an inspiring leader in early childhood. We discuss leadership styles and techniques before looking at ways of embedding a culture of reflective practice and quality pedagogy in your service.

Customised In-Service

While all pre-designed sessions will be adapted to your service outcomes, we understand there will be times when you have a specific need in your service. We are happy to design a training package around those needs.

There is no additional cost for customised in-service and we will work with you to ascertain your specific requirements. Please email us or call to discuss your in-service preferences.

Educate 2 Empower

Part of implementing best practice with young children includes empowering them around their own body safety. Protective behaviours can be difficult to promote in early childhood in a way that is age appropriate. To assist services in implementing body safety education with their preschool age children, Educate2Empower Publishing has developed a 'Body Safety Education Preschool Teacher's Resource Kit'. The kit includes lesson plans, an activity book, a collection of picture books from award winning children's author Jayneen Sanders, a powerpoint presentation for educators who will be implementing the program, and a powerpoint presentation for an information evening with parents. The resources in the kit are designed to assist children in understanding and managing emotion, recognising and discussing warning signs and body boundaries, and much more. For a full list of outcomes see the Educate to Empower website.

At Engaging Curriculum Solutions we highly value the importance of child protection and promoting protective behaviours and we are honoured to be helping promote this wonderful kit to early childhood services. We also understand that some services may not have someone comfortable to present the information to educators and families. To assist with this ECS can present either, or both of the training/information packs included, as well as organise your kit orders for you. It is important that the service will have a champion for the program to ensure its implementation within the service, following the training.



Price List - ECS Training

All prices are based on up to 20 attendees. Additional attendees may incur a further cost (varies depending on length of session).

Session prices are as follows:

2 hour sessions - \$550

3 hour sessions - \$650

6 hours sessions - \$1200

7 hour sessions - \$1300

All 6hr & 7hr in-services include a resource kit.

Price List - Educate 2 Empower

Body Safety Education Preschool Teacher's Resource Kit: \$159.95 + delivery (\$15 express post).

Educator Training Delivery: \$400 min (based on up to 15 educators)

Parent Info Evening Delivery: \$500 min (based on up to 50 attendees).

Services outside of the Sydney to Newcastle region may incur additional travel fees.



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