

ELEVATE

EARLY EDUCATION ONLINE CONFERENCE



Celebrating Being: Nurturing Children's Authentic Selves

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024 | 9.00AM-4.00PM (AEST)

Our popular 1-day online conference will focus on fostering inclusive education, understanding diverse perspectives, and nurturing the holistic development of every child, all while embracing the latest updates to the EYLF V2.0.

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR
9.00 - 9.15AM	Welcome ~ Michele Carnegie CEO, CELA	
9.20 - 10.20AM	Creating inclusive play environments for children with special needs This workshop aims to empower educators with the knowledge and skills to design and implement inclusive play environments for children with special needs and development delays.	Robyn Papworth - Paediatric exercise physiologist and developmental education specialist
10.25 - 10.35AM	Break	
10.35 - 11.20AM	How letting children group by interest, rather than age, can create a community rather than a classroom Niki Moodie explores the transformative approach of grouping children by interest rather than age, to cultivate a community of learners rather than a traditional classroom. This session delves into the journey towards an inclusive setting that embraces all ages, recognising children as unique individuals leading their own learning journey.	Niki Moodie - Director, The Rumpus Room
11.25 - 12.25PM	Using the Zones of Regulation with young children Working closely with an occupational therapist to support an individual child with regulating inspired the introduction of the Zones of Regulation, created by Leah Kuyper, as a teaching tool for the whole preschool group at Explore & Develop Annandale. Kuyper's work transforms the complex notion of self-regulation, as developed by Stuart Shanker, into a child-appropriate tool to support children in understanding their emotions and associated behaviours.	Kirsty Pendl and Melanie Elderton, Explore & Develop Annandale
12.25 - 1.10PM	Break	
1.10 - 1.55PM	Cultural safety for First Nations educators and children Cultural advisor Lisa Walker and CELA early education specialist Jannelle Gallagher will explore the topic of cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators in the workplace and how this is vital to supporting safe spaces for First Nations children and families. Attendees are invited to ask questions and participate in an open discussion on the topic.	Lisa Walker, Cultural Advisor in conversation with CELA's Jannelle Gallagher
2.00 - 2.45PM	Impacts of media representation of gender in early childhood education This workshop delves into the effects of gender representation in media and popular culture on children and early childhood education. Rachel will explore key questions surrounding the importance of addressing gender representations in educational settings, the selection of resources mindful of these representations, and the overall impact on young learners.	Dr Rachel Chapman, Lecturer and Curriculum Specialist, Melbourne Polytechnic
2.45 - 2.55PM	Break	
2.55 - 3.55PM	Embracing autism and thinking differently Autism advocate, mentor and keynote speaker Travis Saunders will take you on a journey to provide a deep dive into autism and family life. He explores what all parents wish teachers understood about their child from day one. Teachers will leave with strategies to support effective communication and develop long-term relationships with children and their whole family.	Travis Saunders, autism advocate and keynote speaker
3.55 - 4.00PM	Conference wrap up	

Meet the facilitators

ROBYN PAPWORTH

Paediatric exercise physiologist and developmental education specialist

Robyn Papworth is a dynamic force in paediatric exercise physiology and developmental education. With a master's degree under her belt and a personal journey through neurodiversity stemming from childhood trauma, Robyn brings a unique and empathetic perspective to her work. Her burning passion? Equipping educators, teachers, and families with the tools and understanding to champion children facing challenges like trauma, ASD, ADHD, dyspraxia, cerebral palsy, and dyslexia.

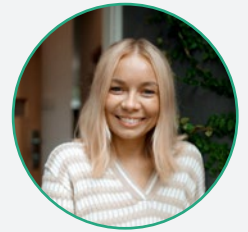


NIKI MOODIE

Director, The Rumpus Room

Niki Moodie is a devoted mother, loving wife, and dedicated teacher. Her career journey, fuelled by a deep passion for early learning, is academically backed by a double degree in Early Childhood and Primary Education.

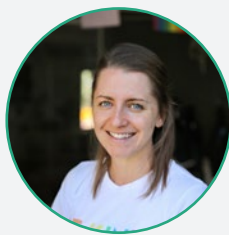
Over the span of eight fruitful years, Niki has committed herself to a single centre, a nurturing ground where she has evolved through various roles, currently serving as a Director. This role has allowed her to champion best practices in early childhood education, share her fervent passion with others, achieve professional milestones, and continually engage in reflection and growth. Her path in early education is not just a career but a calling, driven by a willingness to explore new ideas and a commitment to excellence in nurturing young minds.



KIRSTY PIENDL

Early Childhood Teacher, E&D Annandale

Kirsty Piendl is an early childhood teacher at Explore & Develop Annandale. She is currently studying Neuroscience and Education at the University of New England. Kirsty is interested in mental health and well-being and advocates for inclusive education and social justice.



LISA WALKER

Cultural advisor

Lisa Walker is a proud Galibal woman from Bundjalung Country, Far North Coast, NSW and has ties to the Yuin, Yaegl and Gubbi Gubbi Nations. She has worked across the ECE sector for the past 17 years in local, State, National and Global roles and started her own cultural consultancy 3 years ago to promote understanding of her Peoples' diverse ways of being and doing.

Lisa is grounded in connection to both her Country and mob and advocates for much needed change for her people through grassroots two-way respectful engagement. She believes all jarjums (children) deserve the same opportunities to belong, learn, thrive and succeed in life and it is our role as big people to guide them through this, after all they are our future generations.



MELANIE ELDERTON

Educational Leader, E&D Annandale

Melanie Elderton is the Educational Leader at Explore & Develop Annandale. She holds a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor of Arts (Art History) and a Bachelor of Art and Social Science Research (Honours). She is passionate about arts-based practice, education for sustainability, social justice and inspired leadership.



TRAVIS SAUNDERS

Autism advocate and keynote speaker

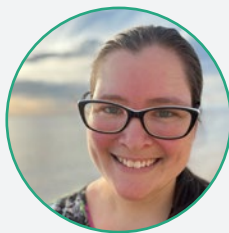
Travis has a long history of advocacy for Autistic Australians as a father, educator, speaker, as Vice Chair of Autism Camp Australia and through the Australian Autism Research Council. Travis produced and presented the award-winning ABC podcast The Parenting Spectrum. In 2020 he was awarded Autism Spectrum Australia's Parent/Carer of the Year. In 2023 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to investigate models of support that enable Autistic people to access and enjoy bushwalking. He is the founder of Inclusive Trails, supporting neurodivergent people outdoors. Travis is the proud father of an Autistic son who communicates using a letterboard.



DR RACHEL CHAPMAN

Melbourne Polytechnic

Dr Rachel Chapman is an academic in early childhood education at Melbourne Polytechnic. Her research areas include gender, sexuality, early childhood education, media, popular culture, diversity, inclusion, policy and teacher practice. She has over 20 years of experience teaching, lecturing and researching in the early childhood sector. She is on the board of Social Justice in Early Childhood. Her book "Gender expansion in early childhood education: Building and supporting pro-diversity spaces" was published with Palgrave Macmillan in late 2023.



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www.cela.org.au/elevate-conference-2024



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