

# E *EarlyEd Newsletter*

## Term 3, 2010

### From the director

We are currently planning groups for next year. While we make every effort to offer an Early Learners or School Readiness group that meets the needs of your child on a day that suits you, we cannot always guarantee this will happen. If we are unable to offer you a group, other service options will be offered.

In the July school holidays, siblings groups were held at both Rosehill and North Sydney. Reports of these very successful days can be found in the newsletter. Lesley, who we welcomed back at work in the middle of last term, co-ran these with Anu and Renee. Lesley will be working part-time co-running some of our parent school readiness sessions as well as working on some special projects. The first of these is a Mothers' Pamper Day which will be held later in the year.

Toilet-training workshops have been planned for September at North Sydney and early next term at Rosehill. Further information will be available soon. These workshops are among a number of upcoming parent information opportunities that EarlyEd will be offering. Information is important to enable families to make informed choices. We use a number of ways of keeping families informed. This newsletter, emails, noticeboards at each centre are just some of the ways we share information. If you would like information on a particular issue, talk to your service co-ordinator.

Finally, I will be on leave from early September until October 17th. During this time, any questions or concerns should be directed to the team leaders or the President of the Management Committee (managementcommittee@earlyed.com.au)

*Simone Gerber*



### Dates for EarlyEd Programmes for Terms 3 & 4

Term 3	
Staff planning week begins	19th July
First day for Music Therapy at North Sydney	19th July
First day for Music Therapy at Rosehill	21st July
Staff Development Day	20th July
First day for Early Learners Groups	26th July
Last Early Learners group for term 3	13th September
Last Music Therapy for term 3 at North Sydney	20th September
Last Music Therapy for term 3 at Rosehill	22nd September
IFSP Review week begins	20th September
Term 4	
Staff planning week begins	11th October
First day for Music Therapy at North Sydney	11th October
First day for Music Therapy at Rosehill	13th October
Staff Development Day	19th October
First day for Early Learners Groups	18th October
Last Early Learners group for term 4	10th December
Last Music Therapy for term 4 at North Sydney	13th December
Last Music Therapy for term 4 at Rosehill	15th December
Review week begins	13th December

### What's inside?

Assisting your child's development

Useful websites

Suggestions to gain and maintain eye contact

Siblings groups

New staff

### Donations

Thank you to:

- Fighting Chance Fund
- Hare & Forbes Machinery House
- Parramatta UC Parish Play Centre
- United Way for their ongoing support of EarlyEd and funding our music therapy groups.

ALL DONATIONS TO EARLYED OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



# HOW YOU CAN ASSIST YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT-

News from the Early Childhood Intervention Australia National Conference

In May, a number of EarlyEd staff attended the E.C.I.A National Conference in Canberra.

Professor Gerald Mahoney from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Ohio, discussed his research that shows that Responsive Parent-Child Interaction is the most consistent predictor of early developmental outcomes for children with a disability.

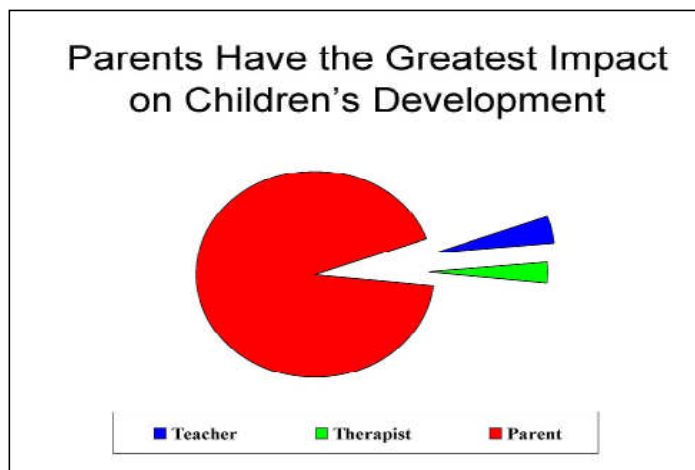
He showed a diagram that showed how big a part parents play in their child's lives and the importance of their interactions with their child.

The most important skills that a responsive parent can help their child achieve are:

- Attention
- Persistence
- Involvement
- Cooperation
- Initiation
- Joint attention &
- Social play/affect

Some of the ways you can do this are:

- Be physically available and interactive
- Play frequently together
- Take your child's perspective
- Use mirroring/ parallel play to join activity
- Expect your child to interact
- Take one turn and wait
- Play with sounds back and forth
- Communicate less so my child communicates more
- Play face-to-face games without toys
- Make a habit of communicating during Joint Activity Routines



## Useful Websites

### About me

This South Australian resource was developed in consultation with families whose child has a disability and service providers. The aim is to create a record of the child's abilities, skills and support needs with a focus on being positive. This records enable families to share information about their child with those who provide services to the child and their family. The resource is divided into three categories by age: 0-6, 6-12, 12-18. There is a brief slide show that previews what is in the resource. Parents can purchase this resource for \$50/ family and \$25 for each extra child. [www.aboutme.org.au](http://www.aboutme.org.au)

### ABC Children's Games

This is a lovely free interactive website with familiar characters such as Bananas in Pyjamas. The games are simple and clear allowing time for a response. [www.abc.net.au/children/games](http://www.abc.net.au/children/games)

### Kidsgames

These interactive online games are free and require a sound card. They are simple games suitable to a preschool aged child. They follow the adventures of "Boowa" cleaning his room, looking for toys, creating dominoes, etc. A voice with an American/French accent is used. [www.kidsgames.org.au](http://www.kidsgames.org.au)

### Zac browser

ZAC is a "Zone for Autistic Children with interactive games and activities for young children. The activities are designed specifically for children with low, medium or high functioning autism. Zac Browser and installer can be installed in just over a minute free of charge. Explore on: [www.zacbrowser.com](http://www.zacbrowser.com)

These reviews first appeared in Early Edition Vol 16 No 1 2010 - Magazine of Early Childhood Intervention Australia (NSW Chapter) Inc.

## Supporting your child and family in the community

Some of the ways we can do this are:

- accompany you to the shopping centre to develop strategies to address your child's behavioural issues
- accompany you to a mainstream playgroup to support your child's participation and inclusion
- work with the local swim school to include your child in learn to swim classes

If there is a way we can help your family, please talk to a member of the EarlyEd team.





## IMPORTANT FOR ALL FAMILIES

### FUNDING APPLICATIONS for

### Department of Education and Training

### ISP (Intervention Support Program)

EarlyEd relies on receiving annual funding through the Department of Education and Training's Intervention Support Program.

As this funding is child specific we must submit the names of the children to whom we are providing a special educational service. Consequently, each year we ask families to sign a copy of the Parent/Carer Certification Form.

Your child can be funded under the ISP for a maximum of 2 services. That is, **one** early childhood intervention services (e.g. EarlyEd, ASPECT, RIDBC, Vision Australia) and **one** mainstream service (e.g. preschool).

Please be aware that if you sign forms **for more than one early childhood intervention service**, the Department of Education and Training will determine which organisation receives the funding and this may not actually be the organisation that you want funded.

To assist families keep track of the forms they have signed, EarlyEd has introduced a new procedure.

All families will receive a photocopy of the signed form to keep on their file. This will assist families to keep track of where they have signed the form.

Children who are not funded at EarlyEd (*their families have signed with two other organisations*) will be not be eligible for our programmes as we have a waiting list for our services.

## New Staff

Kaylene Sibley will be joining the EarlyEd team on Monday August 23rd. She will be working as the early childhood special educator on the mobile playgroup team.

Kaylene has worked in the field of early childhood intervention for many years both in an early childhood intervention service and as an additional needs teacher in mainstream preschools.

## Pay your fees by BPAY

Our fees are only a small contribution to the actual costs of providing a service. The \$80 term fee does not even cover the cost of 1 session - be it a group or a 1:1 appointment. For this reason, fees are charged for the term irrespective of the number of times you attend.

Although fees are low, we provide a high quality service that follows Recommended Practices in Early Childhood Intervention. Our staff attend regular professional development opportunities, both within the organisation and externally. This professional development keeps them up-to-date with what is happening in the broader field of early childhood intervention, as well as what is happening in their particular area of expertise, be it physio, speech, special education or occupational therapy.

Prompt payment of fees helps minimise admin costs. To assist you to pay your fees promptly we are now able to offer a BPAY option. Your account will have the BPAY logo together with our Biller Code and your individual reference number.



Biller Code: 134114  
Ref: 1234567

## Compliments, concerns and complaints

If you have a compliment, concern or complaint - there are lots of ways of letting us know.

Send an e-mail to: [sgerber@earlyed.com.au](mailto:sgerber@earlyed.com.au)



Write a letter or note and post it to:  
Simone Gerber (Director)  
19/248 Miller St,  
North Sydney 2060



Phone me on 9923 2727



let a member of the team know

or email / talk to a member of the Management Committee (they are listed on the back page)



# Sibling Group 2010



## AT NORTH SYDNEY

On Wednesday 14 July 2010 a Sibling Group was held at EarlyEd North Sydney, with seven siblings attending to join in on the fun!

Sibling Group consisted of a number of activities designed to allow our siblings to express themselves creatively and emotionally. Name badges and masks were made; 'bingo' and a number of outdoor games were played. Two activities were tailored to prompt discussion by our siblings on their brother or sister who attends EarlyEd. The focus of this discussion was 'what our siblings do that makes us happy, and what they do that makes us sad or angry', this question was received with a multitude of positive comments about their brothers and sisters!

*"It makes me happy when I play with my brother because he is always happy"* - Jade (9 years)

*"Cuddling my brother makes me happy"* - Sam (6 years)

Sibling Group was a great success with each sibling going home with a personalised certificate and a big smile on their face.

Should you wish for your child to attend an EarlyEd Sibling Group please email Family Support Worker Renee Lea on [rlea@earlyed.com.au](mailto:rlea@earlyed.com.au) or phone 9923 2727.

(Sibling Groups are run every school holiday for approximately two to three hours, and have a small cost attached).





# Sibling Group 2010



## AT ROSEHILL

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010 a Siblings Group for 7-10 year olds was organised at Rosehill with 4 siblings attending.

It was a fun, interactive and supportive workshop. The goal was to connect peers and disseminate information and build skills in a recreational context. Through fun activities -craft, games, singing, role plays and discussions the children were able to take part and share thoughts on serious topics like the strengths of our families and what we could do to feel better when we are sad or mad.

The feedback to what they had learnt that day was amazing!

We had a nine year old mention *"it is nice to hear other people's stories"* and another child says *"I learnt how to be happy"*.

Each of the siblings went home with a family poster and a "happy book" which would encourage them to fill up/write on whenever something made them happy and thereby adding on to their 'happiness' bank. This of course could be drawn on when he/she was not so happy.

Should you wish for your child to attend an EarlyEd Sibling Group please email Family Support Worker Anu Andrade on [aandrade@earlyed.com.au](mailto:aandrade@earlyed.com.au) or phone 9897 1511.

(Sibling Groups are run every school holiday for approximately two to three hours, and have a small cost attached).



# Suggestions to Gain and Maintain Eye Contact

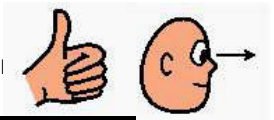
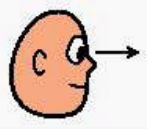
Eye contact (looking at the person talking) is important for social interaction, communication and learning. In Australia, teachers like children to look at them when they are talking.

By maintaining eye contact, children get more information about language through facial expressions, gestures or signs. It also helps listening skills and assists in following directions.



Consider the following points when encouraging your child to look at you:

1. Get down to your child's level and say their name.
2. Try to encourage your child to want to look at you, but never force him/her to.
3. Encourage your child to look at you using phrases like "David looking" " I need to see your eyes" or gently touch your child's face to encourage them to look at your face.
4. When playing with your child, place toys near your face to encourage your child to look at you when speaking.
5. If your child loses attention while playing, stop the activity and say your child's name and encourage them to look at you before starting again.
6. Try to make play times with your child fun and enjoyable. Encourage eye contact and play attempts at looking. Eg "Good looking".



## Games to encourage eye contact



- **Songs and rhymes**

Play partner games eg. Pat-a-cake clapping games; round and round the garden tickling games; row-the-boat rocking games.

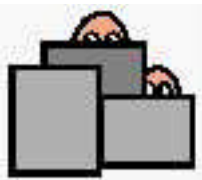
- **Funny faces**

Play winking games or make funny faces and wait for your child to copy you.



- **Peek-a-boo games**

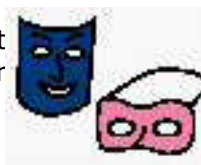
Peek-a-boo games can be played from behind the furniture, the curtains, or another person, under the table, or when getting dressed.



To encourage your child to look at you: Scarves / hats can be used to put over you or your child's head, put sunglasses on and off your face, wave your hands and wiggle your fingers in front of your face & hide your face behind your hands saying "peek-a-boo".

- **Masks**

Make face masks from paper plates and cut out holes for eyes, nose and mouth. Stick your tongue out through the hole for the mouth.



- **Squeaky toys**

Hold a squeaky toy near your face and press it to make a noise. Stop the noise and wait for your child to give eye contact before you start again.

- **Finger puppets**

Draw faces on your fingers or make finger puppets. Wiggle them near your face and hide them.



- **Face paints**

Using face paints / make up, paint your child's and your own face. Make clown faces, animal faces and anything else that you can think of

- **Ball games**

Pass a ball slowly from left to right so that your child can follow it with his eyes. Make it disappear behind your back or behind your head and wait for your child to look at you.



When playing games of throw and catch, wait for your child to look at you before throwing the ball, or hide it behind your back until you get eye contact.

## Staff

**Director - Simone Gerber**

*Accounts/ Admin - Maryna Staver*

### *Music Therapist*

Jann Birks

### **North Sydney**

*Team Leader -*

Liz Cawrse

### *Early Special Educators*

Jenny Donoghue

Julia Liebmann

Stephanie Weatherburn

### *Family Support Worker*

Renee Lea

### *Occupational Therapist*

Liz Cawrse

### *Physiotherapists*

Jenny Berry

Mary Robinson

### *Speech Pathologists*

Alysia Revell

### *Classroom Assistant*

Abby Davis

### *Family Support Worker*

*(Special projects)*

Lesley Burnett

### **Rosehill**

*Team Leader -*

Leanne Unie-Day

### *Early Special Educators*

Leanne Unie-Day

Kate Ellevsen

Hong Pan

Liz Ryan

### *Family Support Worker*

Anu Andrade

### *Occupational Therapist*

Namrita Singh

### *Physiotherapists*

Kathy Gardiner

Cathy Galbraith

Jenny Berry

### *Speech Pathologists*

Margaret Redmond

Sonia Gugnani

Alysia Revell

### *Classroom Assistant*

Kim Burdus

### **Mobile Playgroup**

### *Special Educator*

Kaylene Sibley

(starts Aug 23rd)

### *Physiotherapists*

Kathy Gardiner

Jenny Berry

### *Speech Pathologists*

Margaret Farrell

Sonia Gugnani

### *Bilingual Worker*

Louise Mueller

## EarlyEd Management Committee

**President:** **Janine Lindberg**  
(mother of Maili - North Sydney)

**Vice President:** **Shelley Crumlin**  
(mother of Tarini- Rosehill)

**Secretary:** **Peta Crafter**  
(mother of Rory- North Sydney)

**Treasurer:** **Rosemary Flavel**  
(Early Childhood Intervention rep)

**Committee:**  
**Kylie Gava** (mother of Kaitlyn - Rosehill)

**Stacey Skoljarev** (mother of Harry - North Sydney)

EMAIL: [managementcommittee@earlyed.com.au](mailto:managementcommittee@earlyed.com.au)

## EarlyEd Services

**IFSPs** - individual family service plans are developed with all families and are reviewed regularly.

### **Individual Programme (1:1)**

- Individual sessions with Special Educator / PT / SP / OT- Fortnightly or monthly
- Phone support to preschool /childcare can be offered
- Family support as needed
- Community visits including preschool / child care / home / other – 2 visits per term in total – may be by any member of team

### **Early Learners**

- Weekly group session with Special Educator, PT / OT / SP / FSW attend fortnightly
- 1 visit to preschool/childcare per term
- Community visits including preschool / child care / home / other – 2 visits per term in total – may be by any member of team

### **Preschool Support Programme**

- 3 x visits per term
- May receive a block of SP or PT or OT each term at EarlyEd
- Family support as needed
- Community visits including extra preschool / child care or home / other – 2 visits per term in total – may be by any member of team

### **School Readiness Programme**

- Weekly school readiness group 6 weeks per term including parent sessions
- May receive a block of SP or PT or OT each term at EarlyEd
- Community visits including extra preschool / child care or home / other – 2 visits per term in total – may be by any member of team

### **Home Visits Programme**

Rosehill only - for families unable to get to our Rosehill centre

- Initial appointment with 2 members of team, thereafter:
- Fortnightly / monthly visits by primary worker
- May have one off visit by another discipline for assessment and goal development.

### **Music Therapy**

open to all families

### **MOBILE PLAYGROUP**

The playgroups are for families who are currently on a waiting list for services, and are currently not accessing any form of early childhood intervention.

Playgroup operate 3 mornings per week at 3 different locations:– Monday -St Joachim's School, Lidcombe  
Tuesday – Westmead Progress Hall  
Wednesday – Auburn North Public School