The Gathering 2015

Parallel Sessions

Session 1  11.00 am to 11.40

A1  Room: 204
Topic: Transforming wondering into knowledge: An account of one teachers experience of initiating ‘project work’ within an early childhood centre
Presenters: Katrina Anderson – Lincoln University ECE
Abstract: Children are born with an inbuilt sense of wonder and a strong desire to explore the world around them. This presentation explores how children at Lincoln University Early Childhood Centre have been empowered to turn their natural curiosities into knowledge through engaging in inquiry based learning.
Chair: Christine Rietveld

A2  Room: 205
Topic: The power of effective partnership with Pasifika families and fanau
Presenter: Belinda Williamson, North Beach Community Childcare
Abstract: I would like to present my (short) learning journey as a palagi/ New Zealand teacher enacting leadership in Pasifika Education, involvement and building relationships with Pasifika families and Pasifika teaching community. I would also like to share how I enact my leadership and pedagogy through authentic Pasifika learning assessment (in the form of learning stories and children voices). The learning out comes for children and families when I use a model of culturally appropriate learning attributes/ dispositions and develop strong relationships with parents will be shared.
Chair: Lia de Vocht

A3  Room: 102
Topic: Children’s perspectives on their role as guardians of the earth
Presenters: Jeanne Williams
Abstract: In this presentation, I share my research project carried out in a Christchurch kindergarten with children aged 3-5 years old. Early childhood is regarded as the most critical time when values and attitudes around the environment are formed therefore it is important for research to explore the learning and teaching that allows young children to participate and make a difference. As a researcher and teacher, I am interested in empowering children and understanding more about what young children understand and the actions they want to take for the environment. Young children are often not taken seriously in their suggestions for change, but this project demonstrate the importance of listening to the concerns of young children and respecting their voice in decision making and their competence in action taking. I will present my initial findings from my study, soon to be completed, where I focus on children’s thoughts and perspectives on caring for the earth.
Chair: Rikke Betts
A4 Room: 103
Topic:  Starting our journey of introducing the Bi-cultural lens to Planning and Assessment.
Presenter:  Ally Yee, Kidsfirst Kindergarten Halswell
Abstract:  Ally will take you through the process that the teaching team used to review and improve their planning and assessment. Previous attempts had been unsuccessful in providing continuity so they stepped ‘outside the box’ and developed a process that felt right for the team and included incorporating Māori values naturally within planning and assessment.
Chair:  Raewyn Penman

A5 Room: 104
Presenter:  Andrea Delaune
Abstract:  This presentation would draw directly upon the research I have conducted for my Master’s thesis. I would discuss the three major findings from one of my chapters: Giftedness as a label; Giftedness as a 'Special Need'; and ‘Giftedness and Te Whāriki’. In my presentation I would discuss how the participants negotiated with a discourse of 'giftedness', and how this discourse is problematised when considered using the theory of Foucault. The consideration of children’s rights and children’s needs are unsettled within my analysis. I would also discuss the participants concerns of the child’s subjection to a 'label' of giftedness, the limitations this places upon the child's agency.
Chair:  Tui Summers

Session 2  12noon – 12.40pm
B1 Room: 204
Topic:  Are you ready for take off? - the mystery of flying carpets.
Presenters:  Kidsfirst Kindergarten Lincoln
Abstract:  Kidsfirst kindergartens Lincoln team - sharing our findings on constructing meaning- a self review to identify our teaching strategies that foster children's learning. Is it more important to know the facts or is it more important to develop a style of thinking and a discourse that is analytical and inquisitive.
Chair:  Christine Rietveld

B2 Room: 205
Topic:  How can we support Pasifika families and fanau at our early childhood services to make them feel welcome and comfortable that their identity, language and culture are valued?
Presenter:  Ruta McKenzie and Lima Magele
Abstract:  This workshop offers practical strategies to support teachers who are working with Pasifika families/fanau at their services through songs, games, myths and legends. Teachers will have the opportunity to learn and develop confidence in using Pasifika languages in a fun way with Pasifika early childhood teachers. Research shows for Pasifika children, identity, language and culture are central to successful learning.
Chair:  Benita Rarere-Briggs
B3    Room: 102
Topic: Developing a Nature Kindergarten
Presenter: Louise Hoggart and Sue Coleman
Abstract: In this workshop the teaching team will introduce the research behind nature education and the benefits for children. They will then share with you the changes they have made to their programme and teaching practices and how these have impacted on learning outcomes for children.
Chair: Rikke Betts

B4    Room: 103
Topic: Out of India and Thinking Differently
Presenter: Jocelyn Wright
Abstract: Jocelyn has just returned from 15 months living in Chennai where she was responsible for establishing an early childhood centre founded on the New Zealand curriculum Te Whāriki. Without any external requirements to adhere to and just a vision for the provision of a quality service for children and families, the experience of establishing and running this centre (KiwiLearners) provided lots of challenges, rewards and food for thought about ECE practice. Jocelyn will share her experiences and wonderings about why we do things the way we do.
Chair: Tui Summers

B5    Room: 104
Topic: Transition to School Research
Presenter: Raelene Johnson
Abstract: In this session Raelene will take you through the results of her research with families as they transitioned out of kindergarten, into school and then after they children had been at school for a few weeks. She was specifically interested in the following questions;
   a) How can we strengthen transition to school for our children and families?
   b) What possible actions do we need to explore further to improve transitions/relationships with the schools?
   c) What does it look like for children, what does it look like for parents?
   d) Are children’s portfolios useful throughout the transitioning process? How are they being used currently?
   e) What are parent’s views about how to strengthen and improve transitions?
Chair: Raewyn Penman