

Spring 2002

Volume 1, Issue 3

Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood C.E.I.E.C

CEIEC News

<http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/>

SPECIAL!
Conference
edition

CEIEC and 'doing science differently' ... equity, access, multiculturalism

The CEIEC has been awarded a grant by the City of Melbourne Council to further the work of Swanston Street Science.

Swanton Street Science (SSS) is a group of early childhood staff at the Swanston Street Children's Centre in Melbourne and includes CEIEC Research Associate Dr. Patrick Hughes.

Swanston Street Science is exploring how to 'do science differently', stressing issues of equity & access in a multicultural context. It has initiated and documented various science projects with young children; and it drew on these in its successful application for the grant..



The group will use the City of Melbourne grant over the coming year to establish a web site, to run a 'Science Fair', to create a 'Science Roadshow' and to produce a book for early childhood staff who want to 'do science differently' with young children. Later, SSS will consolidate these various resources into a CD-ROM for early childhood staff & trainers interested in equity & access

The SSS "Science Fair" happened at the Swanston Street Centre on October 30 2002 and featured 15 'science stations'. Each station offered children, parents and visitors a 'hands on' insight into what it means to be a scientist; and asked questions about equity and access to science in multicultural societies.



At the CEIEC conference, SSS discusses its work on Saturday at 2.00 in the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch building; and presents a selection of the science stations' panels in the poster session on Friday at 4.30 in the Physics Building foyer. (See the Conference Pull-out later in this edition.)

Contact Patrick Hughes:

patrickh@deakin.edu.au

Sharon Saitta:

ssaitta@unimelb.edu.au



The Swanston St. Science banner
– made by Swanston St. children.

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‘Inclusion’ in children’s services – the Brimbank Expo

CEIEC Director, A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton was guest speaker when the Brimbank City Council held its annual Children’s Services Expo on 14 October.

The theme of the Expo was “Inclusion – what does it mean in Children’s Services?” – a question of increasing relevance to Brimbank, according to Mayor Andres Puig. “Brimbank’s children come from many cultures and ethnic backgrounds and some have the additional

challenges presented by a physical or intellectual disability”, he said. “It is crucial for our future that all children are able to be included in appropriate children’s programs.”

Glenda spoke on the challenges of an inclusive early childhood curriculum. Her 100-strong audience included people from the wide range of children’s services agencies at the Expo, as well as local early childhood staff and parents

CEIEC speakers in Western Australia

CEIEC Director A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton and CEIEC Associate Ms Heather Lawrence were key features of the Western Australia SUPS State Conference in August 2002 at Hillary’s Harbour Resort, near Perth.

The conference theme was, “Supporting the inclusion of children with additional needs in child care services” and it focused on children with disabilities, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children from Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander backgrounds.

Glenda gave two keynote presentations: “Innovations in working for social justice in

early childhood”; & “Children’s understandings of aboriginality & diversity: possibilities and challenges of working in post-colonial times”; and she ran a workshop – “Rethinking relationships with parents: honouring parents’ perspectives, honouring diversity.”

Heather gave two keynote presentations: “A creative curriculum for a better world” and “Supporting SUPS to connect with early childhood staff and create real change”; and she spoke to a public meeting organize jointly with Meerilinga Training College, “Rethinking challenging behaviours”.

“Dolls with a difference to make a difference”

CEIEC has launched its range of diversity dolls. The dolls are specially designed and custom-made to prompt children to think about diversity.

Early childhood staff can use each doll in the range to help children to experience diversity in class, gender and ‘race’; to think about and enjoy cultural and social diversity; and to advocate diversity and share their ideas about it with other people.

The diversity dolls can be bought through 3 options.

- Option 1: a doll, six hours of in-depth training in how to build histories & stories around it, plus subsequent telephone support.
- Option 2: a doll, the CEIEC CD-ROM “Equity adventures” to use as a training tool & subsequent telephone support.
- Option 3 consists of a doll and is available only to people who’ve undertaken diversity doll training.

For more information:
www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/
g.pung@unimelb.edu.au

Research with a difference to make a difference



Each edition of "CEIEC News" introduces the work of one of the Centre's postgraduate research students. This edition's research student is Ms. Hyacinth Kulemeka.

"I hope to influence my country's practice, programming and policy in a field that still inspires me."

See Hyacinth's work at the CEIEC conference: Friday 4.30. Physics Foyer,

Hyacinth is studying for a Master of Education, which she started in March 2001 at the University of Melbourne's Department of Learning and Educational Development. She comes from Malawi in Southern Africa and has a B. Ed. from the University of Malawi.

Hyacinth was a secondary college teacher for eight years before becoming UNESCO Program Officer for Early Childhood Development and Acting Deputy Executive at The Malawi National Commission.

Hyacinth's research was inspired by the fact that there was no preschool

for her daughter, who had to enroll in a private preschool 40km from where she worked. This was 17 years ago, but little has changed. Malawi lacks state-run early childhood programs; and private ones charge fees and are in towns, so they are inaccessible to the average Malawian family.

Hyacinth's study highlights the benefits of early childhood education especially to children in poverty – almost 80% of Malawi's population. She is analysing international research and policy on this issue and says, "I hope to influence my country's practice, programming and policy in a field that still inspires me."

Hyacinth would like to hear from analysts and policy-makers willing to participate in her study. Contact her at: HyacinthKishendo@netscape.net

Which bank? The CEIEC-based Image Bank!

CEIEC members A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton and Ms. Jane Page have been awarded a grant by the Faculty of Education to develop an on-line 'Image bank' of digital photos of innovative early learning environments.

The Image Bank supports teaching and learning about early childhood curriculum. It introduces recent theory-based innovations in the design of early learning environments; invites students to reflect critically on their future roles as early childhood teachers in various learning environments; & inspires them

to design and critically evaluate innovative learning resources.

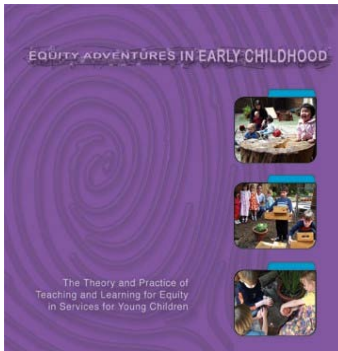
The Image Bank includes case studies of key research concerning innovative learning environments (linked, where appropriate, with on-line full text journal articles); audio clips of early childhood teachers discussing how they design learning environments; and images of the features that such teachers include in their designs to address equity issues.

Students can extract elements of these images to build virtual 'equity ideal' learning enviro

The Image Bank poses reflective questions to assist students to understand these innovations in early childhood learning environments, to review their learning and to extend their thinking about how to design learning environments. Web links take students to further on-line reading (basic and advanced) on designing early childhood learning environments.

Contact:
A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton:
(gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au)
Ms. Jane Page:
(j.page@unimelb.edu.au)

“Equity Adventures” – the new CEIEC CD-ROM



CEIEC launches its new CD-ROM, “Equity adventures in early childhood” at its conference, on Saturday 9 November.

An Australian first, “Equity adventures” uses digital technology to offer ‘virtual’ experiences of teaching and learning for equity. It includes photos, research case studies and video clips of interviews with early childhood staff; and users can draw on these resources to explore key approaches to equity in early childhood in ‘virtual’ classrooms.

Information: www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/
g.pung@unimelb.edu.au

Early Childhood Equity Alliance (USA) launches new website, links with CEIEC.

In October, the Early Childhood Equity Alliance launched its web site, www.RootsForChange.net

The USA-based Alliance brings together individuals, organizations and institutions in the USA who are working for equity & justice for children, families and communities. The Alliance’s interactive web site is bilingual (English and Spanish) and includes a searchable database of more than 400 articles, stories, children’s books, videos, and other materials; a rotating theme called “Focus On ...”, which debuts with a “Focus on Identity”; and connections with members of the Alliance.

Members of the Early Childhood Equity Alliance include Theresa Lenear, Louise Derman-Sparks, Diana Puente, Faye Louie and Wendy Harris. They warmly invite visitors to access the website, to comment on its strengths and to suggest improvements and additions, including original writing, stories, strategies, pictures, and class/workshop plans.

They outlined their hopes for the new site as follows: “Our collective work

for change will be more effective with your enthusiastic involvement in www.RootsForChange.net along with the many activities needed to build our movement. As we all grow together, we are nurturing the roots for change.”

Many readers of “CEIEC News” will be familiar with the work of Louise Derman-Sparks and her colleagues concerning equity issues in early childhood. The CEIEC has links with the Early Childhood Equity Alliance, including an agreement to reprint relevant items from each other’s newsletters, so expect to see more about the Alliance in future editions of “CEIEC News”.

Louise Derman-Sparks and her colleague and co-founder of the Equity Alliance, Theresa Lenear, are each appearing at the CEIEC Conference. See the special supplement for details.

You can join the Early Childhood Equity Alliance at:

www.RootsForChange.net
and/or you e-mail them at:
info@ececquityalliance.net

“Our collective work for change will be more effective with your enthusiastic involvement in (our website), along with the many activities needed to build our movement.”

As we all grow together, we are nurturing the roots for change.”

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FEATURE PULL-OUT

2002 CEIEC CONFERENCE:

“Honouring the child, honouring equity 2”

“RISKING CHANGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

Melbourne 7 – 9 November

Inside:

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CEIEC’s second conference has as its title, “Risking change to make a difference” and continues the theme, “Honouring the child, honouring equity” that underpinned the 2001 conference.

“Risking change ...” features the orientation to change ‘on the ground’ and the mixture of events that contributed to the success of the previous conference.

“Risking change ...” brings together people from every aspect of early childhood – practitioners, policy-makers, managers, researchers, trainers, parents and academics. They come from all over Australia, as

well as from the UK, China, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA.

The keynote speakers reflect that international perspective and each will talk about taking risks to make a difference in their own area of work. The conference theme and title will, of course, resonate through the more than 40 workshops, as well as an exhibition of posters.

Two new features this year are the Learning Circles and Special Interest Groups, each enabling people with common interests to plot and plan to change the world! New media presentations throughout the days complete a picture of a field in ferment!

“Honouring the child, honouring equity 2: RISKING CHANGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday 7 November

5.30 Registration opens; champagne & finger-food
 6.30 **Welcome** by Wurundjeri elder
 7.00 **Opening** with multi-media presentation
 7.30 **Keynote: Ms Rosslyn Noonan**
 8.30 Finish

Friday 8 November

8.30 Registration
 9.15 Welcome
 9.30 **Keynote: A/P Glenda MacNaughton**

10.30 MORNING TEA
 11.00 W’shops, seminars, learning circles

12.00 LUNCH
 1.00 **Keynote: Prof. Judy Atkinson**
 2.00 W’shops, seminars, learning circles

3.00 AFTERNOON TEA
 3.30 **Keynote: Dr. Maria Palotta Chiarolli**
 4.30 W’shops, posters, learning circles

5.30 FINISH

7.00 CONFERENCE DINNER

Saturday 9 November

9.15 **Keynote: Ms Louise Derman-Sparks**

10.15 MORNING TEA
 10.30 W’shops, seminars, learning circles

12.00 **Featured w’shop: Ms Elizabeth Dau**
 W’shops

1.00 LUNCH
 2.00 Workshops and seminars
 Multi-media presentation

3.30 AFTERNOON TEA
 4.00 Learning circles.
 Special interest groups
 Multi-media presentation

5.00 Close, drinks and action planning

Locations

The conference happens in two adjacent buildings on the University of Melbourne’s Parkeville campus. The keynote speeches are in the **Dame Elisabeth Murdoch** building (formerly the Old Pathology building – don’t ask!). Everything else happens in the adjacent **Physics Building**: the two small lecture theatres (**Laby** and **Hercus**) are on the ground floor; workshop/seminar rooms **206, 207, 208, 209, 210** and **211** are in a row up one small flight of stairs and through some glass doors; and the poster sessions are in the Physics Building foyer. Both buildings can be reached from the Swanston Street entrance to the campus, which is opposite Elgin Street.

CEIEC News

Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli

Keynote:

“They’re too young and innocent’: addressing sexual diversity with children”

When:

Fri. @3.30

Where:

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch bldg.

Dr. Maria Palotta-Chiarolli is a Senior Lecturer in Social Diversity in Health & Education, at Deakin University’s School of Health Sciences in Melbourne. She writes & researches on ethnicity, gender, sexuality & HIV/STDs in education & health.

Her work has been published as research monographs, journal articles and book chapters, as well as four books:

- *Boys’ Stuff: Talking About What Matters* (Allen & Unwin, 2001.with W. Martino)

- *Someone You Know* (Wakefield Press 2002 [1991]).
- *Girls Talk: Young Women Speak Their Hearts and Minds* (Finch Publishing, 1998)
- *Tapestry* (Random House, 1999).

A fifth book is forthcoming – *So What’s A Boy? Issues of Masculinity and Schooling* (Open University Press, 2003) (with W. Martino).

Professor Judy Atkinson

Keynote:

“Rethinking research: the risks and rewards of research from an indigenous perspective that honors children.”

When:

Fri. @ 1.00

Where:

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch bldg.

Professor Judy Atkinson is head of Gineevvee - the College of Indigenous Australian Peoples at Southern Cross University and Professor of Indigenous Australian Studies. She writes and researches about the educational/healing needs of children and their families who have experienced the traumatisation of violence. Her present work developed from her PhD studies, recently published as, *Trauma Trails - Recreating Songlines - the Transgenerational effects of Trauma in Indigenous Australia*.

Professor Atkinson adopts a participatory action research approach to community work around some painful Indigenous

issues. It provides capacity building, expands on essential skills for healing work & uses process evaluation research to develop, deliver & evaluate culturally relevant approaches to the educational needs of Indigenous children & their families.

Prof. Atkinson’s paper presents an Indigenous research approach based on community and researchers working together on process evaluation. She says: “The objective of this approach is to document and explicate what we can deliver as healing educational programs for our children.”

Associate Professor Glenda MacNaughton

Keynote:

"Building new images of (e)quality: what do we need to risk?"

When:

Fri. @ 9.30

Where:

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch bldg.

Glenda Mac Naughton is Director of the Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood (CEIEC) at the University of Melbourne and an Associate Professor in Early Childhood.

She has worked in all sectors of the early childhood field for nearly 30 years as a practitioner and a manager and has been a senior advisor to governments in the UK & Australia.

Glenda has a passionate interest in social justice and equity issues in early childhood and has published nationally and internationally on these

issues. She is an international consultant in equity, the early years and critical theory.

Her two recent books explore approaches to rethinking gender in early childhood and to doing research in early childhood; and she has just completed an international textbook on early childhood curriculum.

Glenda is currently researching how gender, class and race intersect and construct young children's learning; how teachers explore contemporary issues in the early childhood curriculum; and staff-parent relations in early childhood.

Ms. Rosslyn Noonan

Keynote:

"Early childhood education: optional extra, privilege or right?"

When:

Thurs. @ 7.30

Where:

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch bldg.

Rosslyn Noonan took up a five-year appointment as New Zealand Chief Human Rights Commissioner on 17 May 2001.

She came to the Commission from Education International in Brussels, where she had been Trade Union & Human Rights Co-ordinator, working with the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the International Labour Organisation and education unions in the Balkans, Africa & Asia. She helped to negotiate ILO Convention 182 on Child Labour.

Her trade union experience includes 8 years as National

Secretary of the New Zealand Educational Institute & 4 years on the National Executive of the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions (NZCTU). Earlier, she worked as an industrial advocate for the Public Service Association and as General Secretary for the Kindergarten Teachers Association.

Ms Noonan was a founder of the Early Childhood Workers Union, a member of New Zealand's Royal Commission on Social Policy and was New Zealand Organiser for International women's year in 1975. She is married to writer Michael Noonan and has two children.

Ms Elizabeth Dau

Featured workshop:

'There is nothing more unequal than the equal treatment of unequals'

When:

Sat. @ 12.00

Where:

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch bldg.

Elizabeth Dau is an early childhood consultant, who has facilitated national projects and runs professional development for staff and families in all aspects of early childhood education.

Elizabeth has extensive experience in the early childhood field. She was Program Manager of the Northern Territory Children's Services Resource and Advisory

Program and, more recently, was the Educational Manager of the TAFE children's services program.

Elizabeth edited *The Anti-Bias Approach in Early Childhood* and *Child's Play: Revisiting play in early childhood settings* and has written extensively on these subjects. Her current research concerns anti-bias perspectives on children's play and their toys.

Professor Louise Derman-Sparks

Keynote:

"Education for equality: tolerance or transformation?"

When:

Sat. @ 9.15

Where:

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch bldg.

Ms. Louise Derman-Sparks is Co-Director of the Early Childhood Equity Alliance and a faculty member at Pacific Oaks College. She is along-time educator, researcher, writer and campaigner around equity and social justice and she speaks, conducts workshops and consults widely on these issues throughout the United States and internationally.

She served on the Governing Board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children from 1998-2001 and currently serves on the National Advisory Board of Crossroads Ministry, an interfaith, community-based anti-racism training organization.

Louise has written extensively about social justice and equity in early childhood. She has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles and book chapters and has authored or co-authored several books:

- *In Our Own Way: How Anti-Bias Work Shapes Our Lives* (Redleaf Press, 1999)
- *Future Vision, Current Work: Lessons from the Culturally Relevant Anti-Bias Education Leadership Project* (Redleaf Press, 1998)
- *Teaching/Learning Anti-Racism: A Developmental Approach* (Teachers College Press, 1997)
- *Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children*, (NAEYC, 1989).

“Honouring the child, honouring equity 2: RISKING CHANGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

SOME FEATURED SESSIONS

O'SEAS PROGRAMS

Deevia Bhana (University of Durban, South Africa)

“Presuming innocence in the age of AIDS”

Fri. @ 2.00. Room 206

Linda Boyd (Christchurch College of Ed., New Zealand)
“A Pakeha perspective on being bicultural”

Sat. @ 12.00 Room 206

PRACTITIONERS' VIEWS

Sallyanne Kibble & Sally Ceccanti (City of Monash)

“Rethinking approaches to prof’al development”

Sat. @ 2.00 Dame E.M.

Denise Rundle (Boroondara Kindergarten), Brian Newman (NMIT) “Advocating for refugee children”

Sat @ 2.00 Room 207

O'SEAS PROGRAMS

Chinese Welfare Institute (Shanghai) “Honoring the child, honoring equity in the Chinese context.”

Sat. @ 10.30 Laby

Babette Brown (UK)
“Persona dolls: agents for change”

Sat. @ 10.30 Dame E.M.

PRACTITIONERS' VIEWS

Jill Huntley & Fiona Traynor (Children’s Services, Adelaide) “What dispositions do young children need for social, emotional & educational success?”

Fri. @ 2.00 Room 207

“Future links in action”
Sat. @ 10.30 Room 206

O'SEAS PROGRAMS

Rosemary Roberts (Peers Early Education Partnership, UK) “Honoring the child, honoring the parents”

Fri. @ 11.00 Room 210

Rosina Merry (University of Waikato, New Zealand)
“Stories and hero stories”

Sat. @ 10.30 Room 208

POLICY ISSUES

Theresa Lenear (Pacific Oaks C of E, USA) “Leading against the odds”

Sat. @ 10.30 Room 211

Anne Smith (Children’s issues Centre) “Rethinking childhood in theory, research, policy & practice”

Sat. @ 2.00 Room Laby

STUDENTS' VIEWS

Paul Jacobs (Melbourne U.)
“The dignity of risk”

Fri. @ 4.30 Room 209

Miriam Guigni (U. of West Sydney) “Conceptualising goodies and baddies through Jesus and Superman”

Sat. @ 12.00 Room 207

POLICIES into PRACTICE

Gerry Mulhearn, Jennifer McMullin (Children’s Services, Adelaide)
“Learning together”

Fri. @ 11.00 Room Laby

Tracy Castelino (Preston Creative Living Centre)
“Peace works and peace plays with kids”

Sat. @ 2.00 Room 209

RESEARCHERS' VIEWS

Kerry Robinson (U. of Western Sydney) “Dealing with gay & lesbian issues in early childhood ed.”

Sat. @ 12.00 Room 210

Agnes Macmillan, Kennece Coombe (Charles Sturt U.) “Risks & riches in a Koori k’garten”

Fri. @ 2.00 Room 208

CEIEC News

CEIEC launches ABCD on the WWW!

ABCD website launch:

WHEN:
CEIEC
Conference:
Sat. @ 4.00
WHERE:
Room 206

CEIEC member Dr. Sharne Rolfe will launch the Attachment, Bonding and Child Development (ABCD) group's website at the CEIEC Conference.

Sharne established the ABCD group earlier this year, as reported in CEIEC News 2. The group's work so far has centred on developing its website, which contains up-to-date information on research, conferences, publications, websites and other resources concerning debates and issues around child attachment and development.

The website features a Forum, where ABCD group members can link with each other. This will be an especially useful feature, as ABCD group members throughout metropolitan, regional and rural Australia and from overseas.

ABCD group members will shortly receive an email from Sharne giving further details about the website.

To join the group, or for more information, contact Sharne: s.rolfe@unimelb.edu.au

New Zealand early childhood staff visit CEIEC

"Some of the attendees said that listening to these three women's passion made their texts come alive."

We enjoyed it so much that we plan to return in a couple of years with another group."

(See p2 for more on Persona dolls)

CEIEC hosted a visit in October by a group of 25 New Zealand early childhood staff, led by David Spraggs, Teaching Services Manager of Tauranga Regional Free Kindergarten Association.

The visit included presentations by CEIEC Director, A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton, CEIEC Member Dr. Sharne Rolfe; and Ms. Kylie Smith, CEIEC Associate and Director of the Swanston Street Children's Centre.

Sharne's presentation of her continuing research into attachment and bonding was a great success. David Spragg told CEIEC News: "All our 28 staff found Sharne's session on Attachment awe-inspiring. They had forgotten or not thought about what occurs to young children prior to entering our kindergartens (3.6 yrs - 5yrs) and many were spurred to seek further information. Well done, Sharne!"

Glenda spoke about the Centre's research into social justice issues using 'Persona dolls', which spurred some of her audience to explore

further how to use these dolls.

Kylie discussed the research on observation and assessment that she is currently writing-up for her PhD. After her presentation, the visitors went to the Swanston Street Children's Centre. David Spragg again: "Kylie inspired people to start that hardest of journeys by looking at what information we gather and through which particular lens we view the world. It was particularly nice to then visit Kylie's centre and see some of the things that she and her team have done associated with her studies."

David Spragg summed up the visit for CEIEC News as follows: "Some of the attendees said that listening to these three women's passion made their texts (which they had read previously) come alive. They can now link the words to a personality. We enjoyed it so much that we plan to return in a couple of years with another group. Thank you to all who gave of their time and expertise so willingly."