

Hello, thank you for taking time to read our newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Early Childhood team for support on any early childhood matter.

AISWA Early Childhood Study Tours

AISWA Early Childhood are thrilled to announce that we will be offering two study tour experiences this year!

- **Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE) Intensive Residential Study Tour (Melbourne):** AISWA Early Childhood will sponsor 4 educators to participate in this exciting REAIE study tour in Melbourne (15-17 August 2024). This tour includes accommodation, a variety of seminars and workshops and an opportunity to visit a selection of centres/schools that grow practice from the ideas of the educational project of Reggio Emilia. Each context offers a unique opportunity to explore Australian interpretations and possibilities of the Reggio Emilia principles. AISWA EC sponsorship is valued at \$2350 and includes accommodation. You can learn more about REAIE's study tour [HERE](#).
- **AISWA Early Childhood 2024 Adelaide Study Tour:** With a particular focus on Children's Agency, Responsive practices in the early years, and Continuity of Learning and Transitions. This tour will encompass visits to several schools and AISSA. Sponsorship for this tour includes accommodation, and transportation to and from each school. Participants will be responsible for their own airfares. Tentative dates are the September School holidays.

Successful applicants for both study tour experiences will pay for their own flights and any additional expenses. If you're keen to apply for these incredible study tour opportunities, further details and an invitation to submit an Expression of Interest will be shared soon!

AEDC

The 2024 AEDC (cycle 6) will play a vital role in assisting Western Australia and Australia in collecting information to support children and families and understand the longer-term impact of COVID-19. All schools should have been activated, and data collection will remain open until 28 June.

Teacher Relief: The Australian Government contributes relief funding to schools for relief staff brought in to allow teachers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Consultants to participate in the AEDC. Teacher relief includes one-hour of training and 20 minutes per completed instrument per teacher and 20 minutes per completed instrument for each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Consultant (completed with a teacher) with a minimum of three hours of relief time per teacher.

If you require any assistance with the AEDC collection process, you can find support through the following channels:

- Website: <http://www.aedc.gov.au>
- Email: helpdesk@aedc.gov.au
- Phone: 1800 092 548 (freecall)

Don't hesitate to contact the AISWA Early Childhood team if you have any queries.

Upcoming Early Childhood Events

Nathan Wallis - July 16th at All Saints' College

Nathan Wallis, New Zealand's renowned neuroscience educator, will share his expertise on brain development and the importance of the first 1000 days of a child's life. Nathan's presentations are always engaging, informative and contain the right amount of humour.

Our [AM session is aimed at Leaders](#) and our [PM session is aimed at Educators](#). These presentations are a partnership between IPSHA and AISWA EC and are subsidised to support your attendance.



Justin Coulson South West Evening Presentation - July 18th 6.00-8.00pm

Dr Justin Coulson is the co-host and parenting expert on Channel Nine's "Parental Guidance" and the founder of <https://happyfamilies.com.au/> Margaret River Independent School in partnership with AISWA EC is hosting an evening session for families. Ticket details will available soon.



Literacy Bites

AISWA Early Childhood is thrilled to share a series of Literacy offerings scheduled throughout the year, targeted at K-6 education titled, Literacy Bites. Our next two workshops are :

[Mentor Texts](#) - Andrea Hillbrick 28th May - Live webinar

[Literacy Hub and Phonics](#) - Elaine Stanley and Karrie Shanahan 30th July - Live webinar

Our first two sessions have already run:

Oral Language - Lynne McCarney 28th February

Our first Literacy Bites PL at [Peter Moyes Anglican Community School](#). Early Childhood Education Consultant, Lynne McCarney, spoke about oral language development and focused on five practical strategies to support development. Thank you to all who attended and Peter Moyes for hosting us!

Word Inquiry - Lisa Burman 30th April - Live webinar

Our second session was facilitated by Lisa Burman, who focused on word inquiry, sharing her discoveries about different approaches to teaching spelling. Lisa's session clarified the components of English orthography, introduced the guiding principles of word inquiry and shared strategies for getting started with 'word scientists' of different age

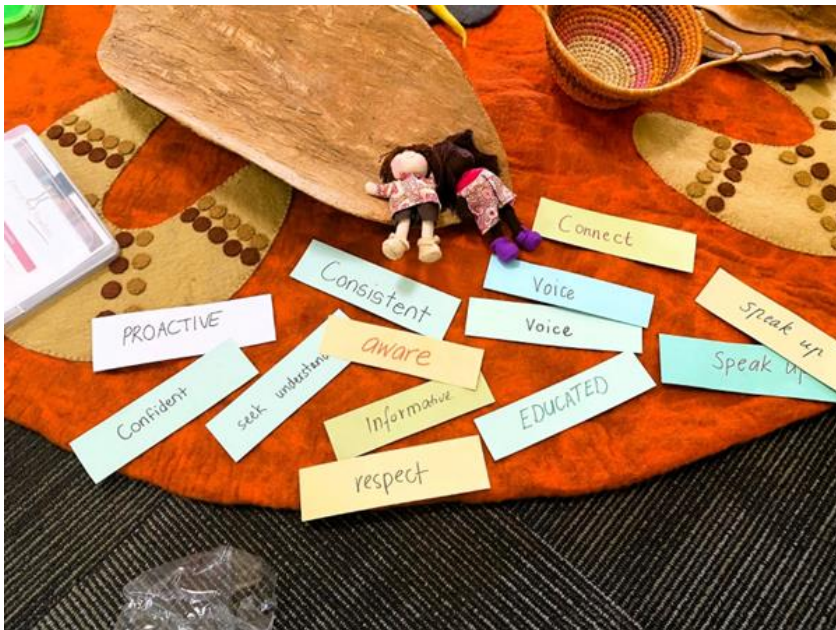


Recent AISWA Early Childhood Professional Learning

Cultural Responsiveness - Robyn Collard

AISWA Early Childhood recently hosted a Cultural Responsiveness Professional Learning session with Robyn Collard, AISWA Aboriginal Education Consultant Kristy Ninyette and AISWA Early Childhood team. This targeted project is open to a small number of invited schools, selected based on their Expression of Interest. The project aims to achieve two goals: To broaden participants' cultural education and to develop strategies to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into their classrooms.

On Day One, participants engaged in immersive experiences with Robyn Collard and guest presenters to build their cultural knowledge of the Noongar culture. Robyn Collard welcomed us with a smoking ceremony, shared Noongar Cultural knowledge, and unpacked dates of historical significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Sustainability Workshop at Perth City Farm

We recently had the pleasure of touring Perth City Farm where we learned about the importance of composting. During the tour, we were given a demonstration on how to compost and its benefits.

We discovered that nearly half of the waste produced by a typical household is organic matter, and composting is an affordable and simple way to redirect organic waste from landfill while also improving soil quality in our gardens.

We were shown various composting systems, such as bins, tumblers, and bays, and we learned that almost all organic matter, including onions, citrus, small amounts of meat, and dairy, can be composted. However, it's important to note that cat or dog poo cannot be included.

We learnt that ensuring the health of the composting system is as simple as maintaining a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of two-thirds nitrogen-rich kitchen scraps and one-third carbon ingredients. Activators such as blood and bone, and animal manures can be added to speed up the process. With this newfound knowledge, we left feeling excited and equipped to set up and maintain composting stations at our schools and homes.

Supporting Relational Pedagogy through AISWA's Behaviour Engagement Project

Recently, some of our AISWA-member schools participated in the Behaviour Engagement project with Deb Martin. As part of this project, school staff across WA came together to explore new ways of supporting relational pedagogy in today's classroom contexts along with the exploration of Dr Ross Greene's *Collaborative and Proactive Solutions* framework. Project participants explored practical strategies to supporting restorative practices in school settings.

Building on the key principle of Dr Ross Greene's work *children do well if they can*, participants spent time reflecting on their current approaches and thinking about new ways to supporting children's behaviour by building social and emotional literacy and emotional regulation skills. For more information, visits <https://livesinthebalance.org/educators-tour/>



Photo Credit - Purnululu School