

19 April 2010

Dear Educators

We are pleased to announce the release of our new publication to support educators in implementing the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

### **Assessment in the Early Years: A resource from Gowrie Australia drawing on the Early Years Learning Framework**

Staff from Gowrie centres across Australia have been working together in a project to review the range of possibilities for ways of approaching assessment. Our work has led to the development of this resource. It has been designed to complement the Educators' Guide and aims to support educators to develop, review and strengthen their own approaches to assessment.

Documenting children's learning and program evaluation has long been part of quality practice in early childhood education and care. While promoting new terminology, the national EYLF reinforces the importance of reflective practice and assessment of teaching and learning to promote the best outcomes for children. Whilst building on the established good practice, the term 'assessment' is more often linked to the school sector and has prompted some debate in early childhood settings.

Gowrie Australia hopes that our resource will support educators to undertake meaningful and ethical assessment of teaching and learning. We are committed to an approach to assessment that recognises each child as a rich with infinite possibilities. Our documentation is about seeking meaning to understand each child. In documenting our thinking we provide the forum that allows parents, other staff and the children themselves to have a voice, to contribute in making meaning and to participate in decisions about learning.

We have collected examples of assessment and supporting documentation from early childhood educators across a range of early childhood settings including child care, preschool, kindergarten and family day care. The examples in the resource show how assessment process provides:

- A way for educators and families to share their perspectives and deepen their connections
- Information to help educators to reflect on their programs and interactions
- Guidance for planning for learning
- Information that can promote continuity of learning and support successful transition to school

**The resource can be ordered in hard copy book format or electronically as a PDF document. Enclosed is an order form so that your site can purchase your own copies of the resource.**

A range of professional development sessions that support this resource and implementing the Early Years Learning Framework will be available from June 2010. Further information is detailed over the page. For session dates and to register go to [www.pscsa.org.au](http://www.pscsa.org.au) or [www.gowriesa.org.au](http://www.gowriesa.org.au)

Kind regards,

The Gowrie Training Centre

## The Early Years Learning Framework in Practice 2 Hour On-Site Workshop

This 2 hour session available on-site at your centre or network/hub group explores the concepts of Belonging, Being and Becoming and strategies to approach implementation. Participants will explore different approaches to implementing EYLF and consider practice examples used in a range of early childhood education and care services.

## Assessment in the Early Years PART 1 - Full Day Workshop

This full day session examines the theory, dilemmas, issues and ethical considerations in assessment. It utilizes the principles and practices outlined in EYLF as a framework for developing an understanding of the types of assessment and assessment processes that are most useful and meaningful in early childhood education and care.

This session will examine the link between assessment and curriculum development through the concepts of **noticing**, **recognising** and **responding** and will consider the practical considerations and processes/systems that support this approach to assessment and curriculum development.

## Exploring the concept of 'Noticing' PART 2 - 4 Hour Workshop

This first in a series of 3 half day sessions will focus on the skills and understandings educators bring as people who are *listening to* and *for* the meaning of what children are doing. Video footage will be used throughout this session.

## Exploring the concept of 'Recognising' PART 3 - 4 Hour Workshop

This second session in the series is a follow on from the 'Noticing' workshop and will consider the different lenses through which we can interpret and understand the things we notice, including the outcomes in EYLF. It will have a practice focus with participants writing documentation using video footage as the basis for writing drawing on EYLF as a reference and guide. Participants will view footage and share their ideas about the meaning of what they are seeing from the perspectives of the child and the adult and discuss new insights/perspectives.

## Exploring the concept of 'Responding' PART 4 - 4 Hour Workshop

This workshop will focus on responsive intentional teaching which is aimed at provoking deeper explorations and learning in the years we have noticed that seem particularly engaging for children. It will include working in partnerships with families, documenting and planning with children, creating and sustaining rich play spaces and environments. Whilst recognizing that building secure relationships is foundational in educators work, we will explore the ways that being a partner in a child's learning in other areas creates a context for deepening the connection

## Using Technology for Documentation 1.5 Hour Workshop

This is a practical, skill based session to assist people to integrate digital photos into documentation produced on a computer. Participants will work with some open ended formats/templates in Microsoft Word and Publisher and be shown step by step how to create visually attractive but simple to create documentation. All participants will receive a USB with the material used in the session for their later use.

More information on upcoming session dates and locations is available from our websites [www.pscsa.org.au](http://www.pscsa.org.au) and [www.gowriesa.org.au](http://www.gowriesa.org.au). These sessions are also available as on-site workshops. Contact Sharee Borlace on 08 8234 5219 to discuss on-site training options for staff teams.