Early Childhood Australia National Conference 2016

THIS IS CHILDHOOD

Pedagogy and practice in the early years

APPLICATION TO PRESENT

5–8 OCTOBER 2016 • DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE

The Early Childhood Australia Conference is a national conference attended by practitioners, academics, professionals and policy makers in the field of early childhood education and care. In 2014, the conference attracted over 1800 delegates from Australia and overseas.
Conference themes

This is childhood—Create—Imagine—Inspire—Discover

This is childhood celebrates the capability, strengths and joy of children and childhood in Australia now.

At the 2016 Early Childhood Australia National Conference, share a vision that places childhood at the centre of practice and pedagogy for the early years.

This is childhood in Australia. The thriving, complex, beautiful Top End has the highest proportion of children in the population of any other part of Australia.

Come and learn in the place that fuses diverse Australian childhoods, where capital city and urban meet remote and regional. Venture into new territory that brings culturally diverse perspectives, evidence-based practice, traditions and new thinking together.

Connect with colleagues, share and consider early childhood teaching and learning through practical, theoretical and reflective lenses.

Create—Create strong communities

Strong connections and lively collaborations are at the heart of practice and pedagogy in the early years for all children and families. Partnerships, practice and research come together as this theme traces the powerful relationships between professionals, communities, families and children. Explore the secret to building strong communities and families. Experience and learn from the deep strength that comes from acknowledging and valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, ethnic and cultural perspectives.

Imagine—Imagine the future

When imagination meets evidence, practice and pedagogy are transformed. This lively theme will be hands-on, interactive and accessible. So come prepared to unleash your imagination on the possibilities for new ideas and the evidence-base on topics as wide-ranging as the arts, environments, literacies, numeracies, technologies, science, assessment and curriculum planning.

Inspire—Be inspired to reach beyond quality

Light a spark. This theme will inspire, challenge and provoke new aspirations and innovation. Learn and reflect with peers and leaders to discover new pathways and expand ways of thinking and knowing. This theme will invite dialogue and foster inquiry. We will reach beyond current constructs of quality and explore the potential for excellence in pedagogy, curriculum and learning environments.

Discover—Discover your potential

Every early childhood educator is a leader. New and experienced leaders will explore what it means to be a leader. Where do roles, responsibility and educational leadership intersect? How do ‘leaders lead’ in service management and community engagement? In this theme, add to your leaders’ toolkit with topics on personal and positional leadership, communication styles, effective partnerships and where accountability, performance, change management, advocacy and ethics fit.
Essential information

Applicants to present should identify which of the four conference themes their paper contributes to most directly:

- Create
- Imagine
- Inspire
- Discover

The AJEC Research Symposium is scheduled the day before the conference and researchers are encouraged to attend the symposium for opportunities to share innovative research methodologies, findings and research with cutting edge partnerships and collaborations. For the conference, researchers are encouraged to consider focusing their proposal on the application of their research for practitioners and policy makers.

Session types

1. Oral presentation

   Individual paper presentation of 45 minutes (including discussion).

2. Poster

   A designated 15 minute time slot will be determined during the conference for authors to present their posters. A template to assist with your preparation of the poster design is available from www.ecaconference.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Presentation-Poster-draft-layout-for-guidance_v2.pdf.

   Criteria for the poster:
   
   > The maximum size for posters is 1.2 metres (h) x 1.0 metres (w).
   > The title and author names should be clearly indicated at the top of the poster. Large letters should be used for the title (equivalent to 80-point font or larger).
   > All text on the poster should be legible from a distance of one metre. It is suggested that headings be in a minimum of 30-point font and that the body text be in a minimum of 24-point font.
   > Material arranged in columns is easier to read than material arranged in rows.
   > Presenters are encouraged to include visual aids (for example, images, flow charts, graphic representations of data) in their posters.
   > Posters should be printed on poster paper or assembled on light cardboard.
   > We suggest that presenters bring a minimum of 20 copies of a one-page handout based on their poster.

Presenter registration

A condition of being able to present is that all presenters must register for the day on which they are presenting at the conference. If presenters wish to stay for the whole conference, payment needs to be made for the full three days. All presenters will receive the Early Childhood Australia (ECA) member discount rate for full conference registration.

Abstracts will be withdrawn from the conference program if registration and payment are not received by 25 July 2016.

Publication of papers

All presentations and full papers will be published on the conference website during the conference. Presentations will be converted to PDF format as they are received. Presentations will not be edited.

Some presentations and papers may also be separately published by ECA in the Australasian Journal of Early Childhood (AJEC) or Every Child magazine. These will be independently refereed according to the publications’ procedures.


The ECA Publications team will approach presenters independently regarding potential publication in Every Child magazine. This may involve presenters summarising their paper or presentation for a magazine format. Further instructions will be provided by the ECA Publications team as required.

Proposed audiovisual requirements

PowerPoint facilities (data projectors, computers and screens) along with internet access will be available for presenters. The conference will be networked, which means that your presentation will be available in the workshop room from a central location. You will need to provide us with your full and final electronic presentation by 11 July 2016 to ensure that your presentation is compatible with the system that will be used and loaded onto the Conference USB.

Contact information

For more information, please contact:

Early Childhood Australia
Conference Office
T: 02 6242 1800
E: conference@earlychildhood.org.au
W: www.ecaconference.com.au
Review process

The Conference Program Committee will review all proposals submitted to the conference for presentation.

All applications to present will be reviewed by a panel including members of the Conference Program Committee. These reviews will not be blind reviews.

All applications to present will be assessed to ensure the quality and relevance of the presentations. This will be done in accordance with ECA selection criteria.

Selection criteria

The assessment of applications to present is a two-step process:

1. Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

   Relevance
   Relevance to the conference themes.

   Clarity
   Abstracts should have a clear purpose for the presentation, using concise language which outlines the ideas and concepts to be presented.

   Innovation/originality
   Applications to present should introduce new ideas and understandings or develop and extend existing concepts. They should not merely repeat information already widely known. Applicants have the responsibility of notifying ECA if the paper has been presented previously and where.

   Audience relevance and appeal
   Applications to present should clearly indicate breadth of audience interest and relevance such as prior to school or schooling sectors, theory, practice, policy or research interests, or curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, partnerships or leadership.

   Preference will be given to presentations that are going to have the most value for delegates, i.e. research findings with ready or clear applicability, projects that are replicable and strategies or approaches that others can take away and use in their own settings.

Free of commercial interest

Any paper that is selling or promoting a particular product or commercial service will not be accepted.

Research papers should include:

- the aims of the project or research questions and/or focus of inquiry where applicable
- research methods and/or analytical and/or theoretical framework in brief
- strong emphasis on research findings and/or translation to practice and contribution to the field.

2. Applications which meet the criteria of the first stage are considered as a group, to ensure an overall balance of:

   » conference themes and strands
   » research and practice
   » presentation styles and the nature of the presentation
   » audience appeal and relevance.

If you are selected to present, you agree to the following Terms and Conditions:

- ECA may record your presentation (audio or visual) and this may be used, for example, as a downloadable file on the ECA website.
- Presenters must acknowledge of the Indigenous people in the area and the country on which the conference is held at the start of your presentation/workshop. These words will be provided for you at the conference.
- Presenters must be available for some media comment about the conference.
- Presenters must be available to speak at any time during the conference.
- Presenters may be asked to repeat their session if it proves to be popular and if delegates miss out.
- Presenters grant ECA the right to publish their paper on the conference website, and/or publish in various ECA publications.
- Presenters must register for the day on which they are presenting at the conference. If presenters wish to stay for the whole conference, payment needs to be made for the full three days. All presenters will receive the Early Childhood Australia (ECA) member discount rate for full conference registration.
- Abstracts will be withdrawn from the conference program if registration and payment are not received by 25 July 2016.
How to submit your abstract

In keeping with our drive to improve environmental sustainability, all abstracts must be submitted online using the following link: https://eca.eventsair.com/conference-2016/application-to-present.

Instructions for completion of application:

- Applications must be submitted online no later than 7 December 2015.
- Abstracts must be no more than 300 words.
- Biographies must be no more than 50 words.
- Authors must supply a photo.
- All abstracts and biographies received will undergo editing before being printed in the conference program.
- Applications must address the selection criteria.

Applications received in any other way, including hard copy, will not be accepted.

Key dates

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submission of application to present</td>
<td>7 December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review by program committee and authors notified of acceptance</td>
<td>22–29 January 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft program published on website</td>
<td>15–19 February 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of the final version of your PowerPoint/electronic</td>
<td>11 July 2016</td>
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<td>presentation/s and or final paper</td>
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<td>Speaker registration deadline</td>
<td>25 July 2016</td>
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Before you submit online, please ensure that you have read and understood this information.

If you have any questions, please contact the conference office for more information on:

T: 02 6242 1800
E: conference@earlychildhood.org.au