

2017 Children's Services Professional Learning Program

“It’s all a bit too hard!”

Are families real partners with educators or are they mostly interested onlookers? And does it really matter?

Presenters: Anne Kennedy & Anthony Semann

Do you find relationships with families hard work? Do you seem to be running out of ‘ideas’ on how to engage families? Do you sometimes feel like it's a one-way street? In this interactive session, Anthony and Anne will raise some challenging questions and debate the realities of partnerships with families and whether or not they really matter, and if they do matter, are we there yet?

The aim is to ‘stretch’ your thinking about partnerships by considering the perspectives of the key stakeholders: educators, families, children and researchers. This session will shed new light on a situation that is often surrounded by feelings of frustration, joy and everything in-between.

Participants will be supported to:

- Bring a more critical frame of mind to reflecting on their current practices in relation to partnerships with families.
- Deepen their understanding of contemporary research that promotes family partnerships.
- Make links between the research and the implications for practice within their setting.
- Explore the multiple ways in which relationships can be reimagined in order to achieve equity for all those involved.



Dr Anne Kennedy works as a researcher, consultant, advocate, facilitator and author in early education and care. She holds an honorary appointment as a fellow of the Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne and is an adjunct senior lecturer at Charles Sturt University. Anne was a member of the writing team that developed the national Early Years Learning Framework and has been actively involved in the development of national and state based professional resources for educators.



Anthony Semann is one of the Directors and founders at Semann & Slattery. For the past 15 years he has worked as a researcher, consultant and manager with a broad range of government, non-government and private organisations. His skills and expertise has seen him work with organisations across Australia and overseas including Columbia University (New York) as well as in France and New Zealand. Anthony has an exceptional capacity to challenge organisations & people to reflect on how their approaches to communication, leadership, diversity, values, relationships & workplace culture affect their services, businesses & ultimately the community.

Suitable for: Educators from early childhood & primary school aged services
Date: Tuesday 8 August
Time: 7pm to 9pm
Venue: Karralyka (see over for venue details)
Cost: \$35

Bookings essential. Register online at: www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/CSTraining.aspx

For more information please contact Cathie Wills
on 9294 5740 or email: childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Please arrive at 6.45pm to allow time to park, sign in & collect your certificate

Karralyka
Mines Rd
Ringwood
(Mel ref: 50:A7)

