



Our Speakers



Amanda Third
Principal Research Fellow at
the Institute for Culture & Society
Western Sydney University



Sharon Goldfeld
Paediatrician and Director of the
Centre for Community Child Health
at Royal Children's Hospital



Joe Coyne
Endorsed Clinical Psychologist and
Educator and Endorsed
Developmental Psychologist



Nathan Wallis
Renowned International
Neuroscience Educator
(New Zealand)

EARLY YEARS Digital Symposium 27-28 May 2021



This year, we're going virtual.

The Early Years Conference promotes the wellbeing of children and families by advancing collaboration and evidence-based practice and provides a platform to reflect multiple perspectives to improve early childhood development. The theme is 'from theory to practice' and will provide valuable opportunities to share knowledge, network and gain professional development.

This conference takes a cross-sector approach and is relevant for many professionals working with children from birth-12 years including early childhood educators, healthcare professionals, child protection professionals, family support workers, child and family counsellors, community workers and program managers. The symposium is **great value** with four 90-minute sessions over two days.

Visit us as www.earlyyearsconference.com.au to register.





Symposium Program

Thursday

27 May 2021

09 00	Day One welcome
09 10	Keynote Professor Sharon Goldfeld The road to equity needs to be paved with more than good intentions: getting evidence into action for early childhood In Australia policy attention has shifted to the early years in recognition of the substantial evidence pointing to the human capital benefit of investing when children are very young; this has been made more urgent through COVID-19. Children will disproportionately bear the burden of the pandemic, particularly those most disadvantaged. This unequal impact on children's health and development requires complex policy response strategies that concurrently consider the health/education interface, the importance of targeted and universal strategies, and more equitable services (particularly at a local level). This presentation suggests how these approaches might come together for accelerated action.
10 10	Question and answer session with Professor Goldfeld
10 40	Housekeeping
10 45	Keynote Nathan Wallis Anxiety and Depression Many parents are concerned about the impact of things such as COVID-19 on their child's development. This talk aims to address these concerns. The three most important factors in mitigating the effects of anxiety and depression are: relationships, relationships, relationships! In this talk, Nathan discusses the fact that both genes and environment play a part in the likelihood of a child experiencing a level of anxiety that causes concern. There are many risk and resiliency factors that can be looked at when considering the appropriate way to respond to maximise your child's positive outcomes. If a child suffers a trauma or has several risk factors (eg. living with domestic violence) you can mitigate the negative effects of this by increasing a child's resiliency factors.
11 45	Question and answer session with Nathan Wallis
12 15	Day One close

Friday

28 May 2021

09 00	Day Two welcome
09 10	Keynote Joe Coyne The Early Years and Attachment Theory: What has been given and where we might be going This presentation will firstly consider the significant impact the Bowlby and Ainsworth's work on attachment theory contributed to the understanding of the early years of life, when children are most influenced by the caregiving environment they are connected with. The influence of attachment theory on ideas of childcare, parenting and intervention will be considered in making sense of how our everyday awareness of children in the first years of life have been shaped by this work. The second part of the presentation will attempt to provide a prospective insight into whether and what the value of attachment theory moving forward will be. A discussion of new trends in attachment research and theory is included, as well as some of the emerging social and cultural challenges facing Australian and global societies for which Attachment theory can make important contributions.
10 10	Question and answer session with Joe Coyne
10 40	Housekeeping
10 45	Keynote Professor Amanda Third Young and online: Children's perspectives on living with the digital Whilst debates about the pros and cons of children's digital media practices abound in the popular media, policy and practitioner contexts, we don't always make enough room to hear and respond to children's insights and lived experiences. This talk will firstly canvass what is at stake for adults in ideas about both 'the child' and 'the digital'. Then, drawing on consultations with children in over 50 countries around the world, this talk will distil the key things children say about both the positive and negative impacts of digital media on their everyday lives, and highlight how we might channel these insights into effective policy, educational and support provision initiatives for children.
11 45	Question and answer session with Professor Third
12 15	Day Two close