



# Parent Learn to Play: Train the Trainer

Professor Karen Stagnitti with guest speaker Rachel Smith

Monday 23rd January 2017  
9:00am - 4:30pm

Geelong Library & Heritage Centre  
51 Lt. Malop Street, Geelong VIC 3220  
Level 5 Wurdi Youang South

## ABOUT

This one day workshop trains participants to run the Parent Learn to Play course for parents. Parent Learn to Play can be either a 7 session or 12 session course for groups of parents. Parent Learn to Play aims to build parent capacity to understand their child's play and how to encourage their child to play. Parent-child interaction during play can build strong bonds between the child and parent.

The workshop covers 6 key play skills, what to say during play, and how to work effectively with parents. Rachel Smith, who is developing 'Parent's Play' for parents who experience intergenerational poverty, will give a 2 hour session during the workshop on how to effectively engage parents. This practical workshop would be valuable to therapists and early childhood intervention workers who work with parents and children.

## Workshop content:

What is Parent Learn to Play?

Parent-child interaction through play – responsive parenting that builds attachment

How to set up sessions

What are 6 key play skills?

How to increase complexity in play through verbal responses

Working effectively with parents

Workshopping tricky questions

## PRESENTER'S PROFILE

Professor Karen Stagnitti currently works as Professor, Personal Chair at the School of Health and Social Development at Deakin University, Victoria, Australia. She graduated with a Bachelor degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Queensland. For over 30 years she has mainly worked in early childhood intervention programs in community-based settings as part of a specialist paediatric multidisciplinary team.

In 2003 she graduated from LaTrobe University with a Doctor of Philosophy. Her area of research is children's play. Karen has written five books on play. She also has over 80 national and international papers published as well as 20 book chapters. Her norm referenced standardised play assessment, the Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment was published in 2007. From this research, the Learn to Play approach to building play ability in children was developed through clinical work. Throughout the year, she is invited to present her work on the play ability of children nationally and internationally. Currently she teaches into the Master of Child Play Therapy at Deakin University.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Rachel Smith has a Bachelor of Education and has worked as a primary teacher in Catholic education for the past 15 years. Currently Rachel is a PhD student at Deakin University. While working as a teacher Rachel completed her Master of Education in early number learning and leadership. Rachel is an expert in working with parents and children who experience intergenerational poverty. Rachel is trained in analyzing the quality of engagement between parent and infant/child using an internationally recognized tool. Rachel's specialty is play based parenting programs and parent child engagement. Rachel's first study gathered information about what parents believe about play and what they would like to see in playgroups and community services. Rachel has designed and trialed 'Parents Play', a play based program based on what parents want. Rachel has implemented the program in a primary school setting and facilitates this program with parents and children each week. Parents Play is currently being implemented Australia wide and internationally. The study will be complete by the end of 2017 and Parents Play will be made available to organizations worldwide.

## COST

\$320 (GST incl.)

**Registration opens Monday 7 November 2016. Please register online at [www.learntoplayevents.com/events](http://www.learntoplayevents.com/events)**