



# The Learn to Play program for Kindergarten Teachers

## 1 Day Workshop 29 JULY 2019

Karen Stagnitti

MON 29th JULY 2019  
9:00am - 4:30pm

Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne  
328 Flinders St, Melbourne VIC 3000  
President's Room

### ABOUT

Many children come to kindergarten who are not yet ready to learn. For other children it becomes clear over their time at kindergarten that they are not ready for school and need extra resources or extra time at kindergarten. The Learn to Play program for Kindergarten Teachers is designed to support teachers in a deeper understanding of pretend play, how it develops, and why pretend play is important for literacy, narrative understanding, social competence, and self-regulation.

Alignment to the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework will be explained in reference to the evidence base for the Learn to Play program.

This practical workshop will take teachers through the Pretend Play Checklist for Teachers with case studies for practice. The Pretend Play Checklist for Teachers is a new assessment to assist teachers to observe and report on the pretend play ability of children in their care. It provides a framework to assist teachers identify targeted activities at kindergarten, information to pass onto parents, and specific observations of a child's play to inform report writing and transition reports.

The workshop provides for small group work to design play activities within group settings and to identify how these play activities build foundational skills for children's school readiness.

### Outline of the workshop

- 9 – 10.30am: A framework for understanding pretend play
- 11 – 12pm: Why pretend play is important for school readiness  
Alignment to the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework
- 12 – 1pm: The Pretend Play Checklist for Teachers
- 2 – 5pm: The Pretend Play Checklist for Teachers  
Planning play activities for groups of children 3 – 4 years  
Planning play activities for groups of children 4 – 5 years

### PRESENTER'S PROFILE

Up until December 2018 Karen Stagnitti was Professor, Personal Chair at the School of Health and Social Development at Deakin University, Victoria, Australia. She has retired from university and now concentrates on workshops and writing. She graduated with a Bachelor degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Queensland. For over 35 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 over 120 publications, including journal articles, book chapters, and books. She has developed several play assessments including: Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment, the Pretend Play Enjoyment Developmental Checklist and the Animated Movie Test. From this research, Learn to Play Therapy was developed. Throughout the year, she is invited to present her work on the play ability of children nationally and internationally.

### COST

\$345 (GST incl.) includes pre-workshop refreshments, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, and all workshop resources.

**Registration now open. Please register online at [www.learntoplayevents.com/events](http://www.learntoplayevents.com/events)**