

Astute

early years specialists

**'In centre'
Professional
Learning &
Development**



www.weareastute.com.au

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Welcome !

A message from our Directors...

Now, we're not telling you something you don't already know - the world of early childhood education and care operates in a fast paced, rapidly changing environment - from our daily work with children, to understanding and implementing changes to regulation and Standards, to our continual improvement in practice, **change** is now our business and **excellence** is our everyday practice.

So, how do we make sure that everyone is on the same page, at all times? That's the key to success isn't it!

We'll you've come to the right place...

Astute's Professional Learning & Development promises a little something for everyone...our sessions are built to bring teams together, to have professional conversations about the things that matter - our practice with children (and each other!) - and to get you all on the same page.

Our professional learning & development are developed from feedback and requests from the early childhood community, plus you will find that we are **passionate** about delivering these sessions. As always though, if there is another topic that peaks your interest, drop us a line and we can customise to your needs - we're flexible like that!

Our professional learning & development sessions are based upon contemporary research and use our unique approach of:

- * experience
- * exposure
- * education

ensuring that all educators connect to the session content in ways that encourage reflective practice and critical thinking. You will also find that workshops map back to the National Quality Standard and the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

We are pretty excited about the year ahead, and encourage you, if you are looking for something a little bit different, to check our website and explore our range of services and programs on offer. From mentoring and coaching, to service specific support (operational & educational), we have a little something for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future and witnessing exemplary teaching and learning for the children in your programs,

Kim & Mel

Our details are on the last page, but you can also head to www.weareastute.com.au



It's the little things... meaningful relationships and primary caregiving with infants & toddlers

The first three years of life are, in a sense, the most striking. The phenomenal amount of growth and development that occurs during this time has no other comparison across the lifespan. Considering this, the knowledge and skill required of educators to progress positive outcomes for our youngest children in their care is critical. In this workshop, we will unpack what contemporary thinking and practice is in the area of infant and toddler programs, and what we need to know to 'go beyond everyday practice' and be exceptional within this space.

This workshop is aimed at getting to the central core of your work - that of relationships – and examining the implementation of relationship based approaches within your programs for infants and toddlers. You will:

- * Refresh your knowledge of the critical windows of development opportunity
- * Gain a better understanding of the models of relationship based approaches
- * Unpack primary caregiving and how you can engage with this, and other similar approaches
- * Examine how your structures (routines, group size, staffing model) help or hinder
- * Consider how to provide responsive, individualised care and education within a group setting
- * How the 'everyday moments' can be turned into 'significant moments' for infants, toddlers and ourselves
- * Discuss what the environment looks like within a relationships based approach
- * Share how relationships can be used as a launchpad for learning within infants and toddlers.

We believe that adult learning doesn't just happen in one day but over time, just like all learning. To facilitate this we have finessed the art of reflection, discussion and action to ensure you get the very best from this workshop. To embed your learning we invite you to join us online. Our ongoing approach where our closed facebook group for infant and toddler educators get the opportunity to discuss the world of infant and toddler education and care. It will also provide you with the opportunity to ask questions, learn from and with others and challenge your current practice to ensure a cycle of continuous improvement.

Super important details!

This session can be delivered in a 2hr workshop or a more in-depth 5hr session, which is best delivered on a weekend or child-free/professional learning day.

This workshop meets:
NQS QA1 and QA5



Come on - let's get intentional about this stuff!

Planning for learning.

Do you ever feel overwhelmed when it comes to planning for children's learning?

How do we capture the interests and needs of all of the children in our group, and then successfully plan for them?

And then documenting this...don't get us started!

These choices can easily overwhelm us, to the point where our planning can become burdensome and we worry that we are never doing enough....or we end up doing WAY too much....

This session promises to ease your pain, and place you on the path to success in planning, implementing, evaluating, assessing and communicating, children's learning.

You will:

- * Improve your understanding of what learning is – and what it isn't
- * Examine and understand the NQS and Regulatory requirements in relation to planning for learning
- * Unpack the curriculum decision making model and how it will apply to your planning
- * Explore ways to document planning for learning opportunities
- * Extend all of this to ensure that your plan is communicated well & is visible.



Super important details!

This session can be delivered in a 2hr workshop or a more in-depth 5hr session, which is best delivered on a weekend or child-free/professional learning day.

This workshop meets:

NQS QA 1 and QA7

APST Standard 1.1, 1.2, 2.33.1, 3.2, 3.6, 5.1 & 5.5.



To Ikea or not to Ikea...that is the question! (But can we Kmart?)

Learning environments for the 21st century early childhood program

Gone are the days of primary coloured, sensory overloaded environments for young children. Today we seek a calmer aesthetic, a place where children can focus, where relationships can flourish and where the environment (both indoors and out) is structured to support the teaching and learning program, not to fight against it.

But, what are the components that create todays environments and where are they drawn from? How can we create environments that reflect the diversity, dynamics and ideals of our community? What roles do beauty, nature, challenge and risk play? And, are we in danger of IKEA-ing our environments?

In this workshop you will:

- * Examine and understand how your philosophy and approach to teaching and learning shapes and influences the decisions and choices you make in relation to your environment
- * Explore *Intentionality* in the design, resourcing and material choices we make for learning environments:
 - What are we doing
 - Why are we doing it
 - Who are we doing it for...
- * Understand the role of the environment in learning and relationships
- * Consider how we work with our team, families and community to create truly unique environments (not IKEA showrooms – we've nothing against IKEA but...)

Super important details!

This session can be delivered in a 2hr workshop or a more in-depth 5hr session, which is best delivered on a weekend or child-free/professional learning day.

This workshop meets:
NQS QA1, QA3 and QA7
APST 1.2, 1.3, 3.4, 3.7, 4.2 and 7.3.



"But they're just playing!"



Language
&
literacy
in the early
years
environment

Do you ever wonder...

- * if you are being intentional enough in your teaching of language and literacy?
- * what language and literacy learning looks like in the early years?
- * what YOUR role is in language and literacy learning within a play based framework?
- * if families value **play** as the context for language and literacy development?

Early childhood programs are in the prime position to enact positive experiences for young children that will contribute to a sound foundation in language and literacy development. Yet, we often question (or have others question us) on what is the best way to 'teach' language and literacy in the early years, and the increasing pressure to implement learning within a 'push down' perspective.

Using the EYLF as a frame of reference, this session will:

- * Provide an update on language & literacy development in the early years
- * Discuss why language and literacy learning is a 'hot button' issue today
- * Provide a framework for practice in emergent, play based language and literacy programs
- * Explore strategies to scaffold and enhance language and literacy opportunities
- * Discuss how we communicate language and literacy development to families.

Super important details!

This session can be delivered in a 2hr workshop or a more in-depth 5hr session, which is best delivered on a weekend or child-free/professional learning day.

This workshop meets:

NQS QA1, QA6 and QA7

APST 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.5, 3.3 and 3.7

QKLG Active learning, Communicating

VEYLDF Practice Principles: High expectations, Assessment for learning and development, integrated teaching and learning approaches



What's this ship I'm Captain Of?

Leadership and leading through the storm of (practice) change!

Does the day to day management of the centre sidetrack you from focussing on the important stuff - educating children, connecting with families and supporting your team?

Do you go home exhausted or are you happy to turn up to work each day?

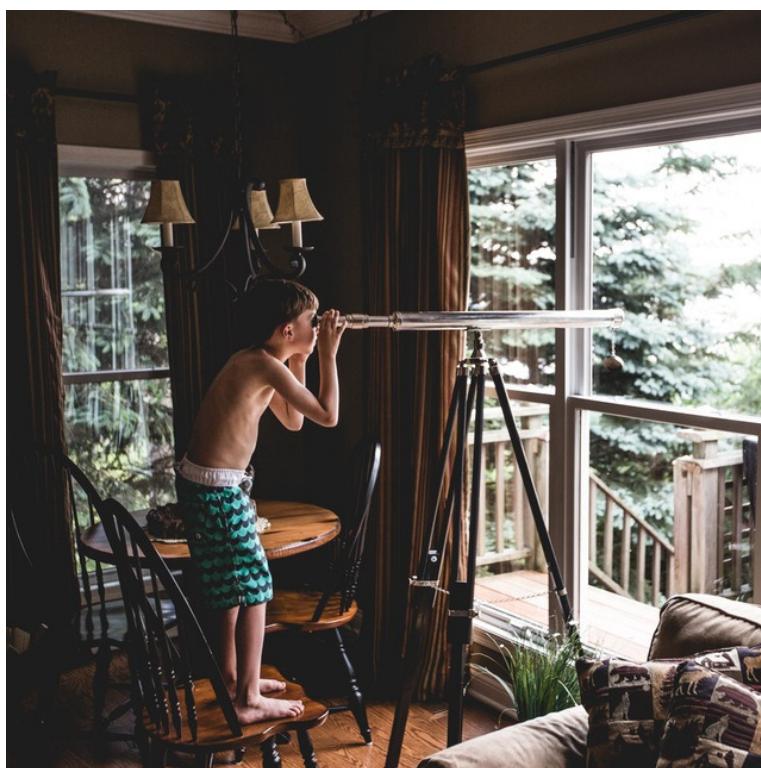
What about your team members - are they happy to be working in your centre?

Managing a centre, educating children, connecting with parents & keeping your team on track and moving forward can be a tough ship to sail.

Leading teams is not something we 'just know' how to do? It's a skill that we need to learn, practice & continue to reflect on and refine.

This session will:

- * explore the difference between management & leadership and show you why a centre needs both
- * unpack your leadership shadow and the impact this has on those around you
- * show you how to build a supportive and positive team culture
- * address barriers to working together effectively as a team
- * explain how to effectively set goals for practice change, and
- * explain the behaviours required to influence and drive change for quality improvement.



Super important details!

This is a 5hr session, best delivered on a weekend or child-free/professional learning day.

This workshop meets:

NQS QA4 and QA7



Everyday Leadership / Lead Everyday - it matters!

Workshop series

'Everyday Leadership/Lead Every Day - it matters!' is a series of workshops around leadership starting with the individual - in how they see themselves, value themselves, and value others, through to being a part of a 'winning' team - that is, everyone is on the same page about the aims and desires for their children's programs, for their centre and in what leadership means to them both personally, collectively and professionally.

Framed on the 70/20/10 adult learning principle (that is 70% of learning happens on the job, 20% in coaching/mentoring/discussions and 10% in more formal education opportunities), alongside these traditional workshop sessions, we will support teams through 'on the job' activities and professional conversation starters to assist in embedding thinking and practice change.

Workshop 1: ***What's at stake? Why the early years are critical, and why you are critical!***

This session will cover:

- * Recent research findings within early child development and make the connection to educator's critical roles in supporting this development
- * Children's rights and ethical practice
- * Your professional identity - making the connection between how educators view and value themselves and their work with children, and how this translates into everyday practice.

Workshop 2: ***It all starts with me...***

Session 2 will cover:

- * Committing to being a lifelong learner - what does this mean?
- * What can I do about my own personal growth?
- * How can others help my personal growth & development?
- * What, and why is professional identity important?
- * How do I build my professional identity - in centre/in my sector/in my community?

Workshop 3: ***Winners! Being part of a winning team***

This session will cover:

- * Why is it important to be an active member of a team?
- * How can I be an effective team member?
- * How can I help others become effective team members?
- * Communicating effectively with my peers/leaders/families

Workshop 4: ***Leading with intent - everyday leadership***

Session 4 will cover:

- * What is contemporary early childhood leadership and what does it look and feel like?
- * Leadership begins with me - children, and I, deserve it
- * My leadership and others - relationships and leadership

Super important details!

This session is delivered over 4 x 2hr workshops.

Hands on learning, theory and practice all in the one series!

Can't get better than that!

Workshop program includes:

- + on the job activities
- + critical reflection activities
- + reading packs to further support growth and development and throughout the workshop program, continual references are made back to everyday early childhood practice to ensure that the connections are made to the personal and professional.

This workshop meets:

NQS QA1, 3, 4, 5 & 7

APST Standard 1.1,1.2,1.6,2.1,2.2,3.1,3.3,3.



Workshop details:

Workshop sessions are delivered in your centre, so your whole team hears the same message, at the same time. (This makes for great, ongoing professional conversation & reflection!).

We can also deliver on bespoke topics, so if there is something else you would like delivered, let's talk.

Cost depends on your location, numbers of educators attending and workshop requirements (ie 2hr or 5hr).

Chat with us @



1300 928 228



hello@weareastute.com.au

Check us out @



www.facebook.com/weareastute.1/



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www.weareastute.com.au

We look forward to seeing you sometime soon!

