

The Natural Phenomena

Presenters/Workshops

Claire Warden (keynote) – Scotland: MindStretchers

is an educational consultant based in Perthshire in Scotland. Her approach to learning and the methods she promotes are innovative and refreshing. She delivers her pink elastic approach to re tape regulations with a sense of realism and humour. Not only will Claire make you rethink your perceptions of education in the outdoors she will entertain you while she is about it. The blend of sensorial, kinesthetic and collaborative experiences place children very firmly at the centre of the learning process.

Workshops : The Childs’s Voice in Nature, Natural Dens, The Scottish Wild Woods (Claire’s centres programme)

www.mindstretchers.co.uk

Pennie Brownlee (keynote) – is in love with life, even the ragwort on our farm!!! She is the catalyst behind this gathering. Her Nature the Natural Teacher workshop reflects her personal affinity with Mother Earth. She has never seen Nature competing with Nurture – rather promotes that the human infant grows as designed when equally in step with both..

Workshops : Nature the Natural Teacher, Dance in your heart

Child Space Institute – Out of the Classroom, Out of the box.

Join Toni and Robin Christie for stories, music, science and magic – all with the wonders of the outdoors in mind. This workshop will deliver hilarity, practical ideas and activities for engaging children out of the classroom and out of the box.

Pikihora Cooper-Brown & Arapera Witehira (NZCA

lecturers)– Nga rauemi/ taonga a Papatūānuku, Tane Mahuta me Tangaroa-the resources & gifts from the land, forest & sea.

Links to our beautiful environment via land, forest and sea, will be projected through the use of natural and raw material. How can these resources be used in ECE? What benefits do our tamariki gain from such materials? Why is access to raw material important? The limitations of resources? How mother nature and off-spring provide the tools of powerful teaching.

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Nature Play NZ – Nature Play NZ is committed to engaging children with the beauty of the natural world. We aspire to provide children with opportunities and teachers with the inspiration to learn through nature, so they may feel a connectedness and become more attuned to the natural cycles of the earth.

www.natureplaynz.co.nz

Anna Gentry

Earthwalking. We’re going on an earthwalk! Lets Take a journey and adventure.. explore, discover and remember our sense of wonder in the ancient forests which will surround us. Capture “gems” to take home to your centre to support your sensorial play.

Plant Wisdom. An introduction to, and exploration of opportunities to connect children with the plant world through growing organic/biodynamic food, utilising edible flowers and sensorial herbs.

Design, implementation and learning opportunities from the plant world will be shared.

Dean Aplin

Natures Way. Lessons from nature for self and organisational leadership. The relationships we observe in nature can provide inspiration and clarity into how we operate in our own lives and our roles at work. Join Dean and inspire yourself with fresh ideas into how nature can enhance & support you in your work environment.

Genevieve Simperingham – Peacefully solving little peoples problems “The natural approach”

During these presentations you will learn effective techniques for helping children who are exhibiting strong emotions and negative behaviour return back to a more calm, settled and secure state within themselves. Genevieve will explain how aggression, hyperactivity and anti-social behaviour in children are symptoms of the child being out of balance and offers very powerful, effective and peaceful approaches that educators can use to help children return to balance and hence more co-operative behaviour.

Genevieve Simperingham runs “Peaceful Parent”, offering courses and coaching to educators and parents. Genevieve is a certified Aware Parenting Instructor. The Aware Parenting Institute was founded by Dr. Aletha Solter, developmental psychologist and author of highly acclaimed parenting books. Genevieve is the only certified instructor in New Zealand at present.

Workshops

- **Every upset is a setup. De-coding the communication behind negative behaviour-** all behaviour is communication – learn to translate the language
- **Effective and constructive Conflict Resolution** – Teaches children problem solving skills, empathy, listening skills and developing emotional

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Nga Kai Ako o Mokopuna o Moerewa E.C.E – Mate Pou & Aggie Wynyard

Mokomoka Nikau/Creative with Nikau

Lizards or Mokomoko are known in Aotearoa for good or bad...

However in this workshop we will be exploring the many uses of the Nikau Plant, especially as a resource in the area of pakiwaitara or the making of story to come alive!

The Nikau plant can make a wonderful Lizard Puppetry story. This work will encourage the teacher to explore the use of this natural resource in a storytelling setting.

Clayanne Paparao Dip Tchg (ECE) is a graduate of Pennie

Brownlee's Babywise course. She and her colleague

Jess have incorporated nature and natural resources into the Under 2 area at Open Spaces Preschool. Clayanne will share ideas of how to connect and work with Nga Taonga o te Whenua to create an inviting environment for infants and toddlers.

Anna Murphy – EcoSolutions, Zero Waste Education

Anna is a facilitator for the Zero Waste Education programme. A service available to school/s and early childhood centres to assist in the implementation of zero waste schemes. Anna will offer ideas, guidance and insights into great ways zero waste can become part of the child and staffs daily programme.

intelligence.

www.peaceful-parent.com

Presenters/Workshops

Anna Rugis – KIDS FOR LIFE natures music for KIDS

Anna is a singer/songwriter/poet/producer. She is passionate about the earth and education for the environment. Anna has produced numerous CD's for children and adults relating environmental messages through music and play scripts for productions at the primary/secondary school level. Her music captures the essence of nature, the birds, the river songs, the tuatara and preschool children love her clear words and simple messages.

The Kids Music Company –Janet Channon

The current generation of young children is more containerized and sedentary than previous generations. As a result many children are not developing as nature intended. Movement builds fitness, an integrated brain, social skills, and overall health. By adding Kids Music Company music we can build skills in all essential learning areas: visual, auditory, language, memory, social, and creative as well as motor skills.

In this workshop we will share fun, whole body, movement based music activities to get kids moving and growing again. You need no previous knowledge to join in, just a willingness to join in the fun.

www.kidsmusic.co.nz

The Wild Woods – Open Spaces Preschool Staff, kids and parents

Visit the Wild Woods with the Children of Open Spaces Preschool (weather permitting). Some of the children currently enrolled at Open Spaces will take you on a visit to their Wild Woods – you will see it through their eyes, and have the opportunity to share with some of the parents their comments on the programme.

Cherry Daly – Open Spaces Preschool. Cherry is a recent newcomer to the world of Early Childcare. She has had a total change of attitude towards "the outside area" since opening Open Spaces Preschool in 2000. This workshop will take you through the concept of an outdoor classroom and challenge the perception of how outdoors can be more than somewhere to run around, and not just a meticulously landscaped outdoor area.