



**The Natural Phenomena is the first and only
"Nature Education" Early Childhood Conference in NZ.**

Program Overview

Friday 19th November 2010

- 1.30pm Registrations Open
- 3:30 – 5.00pm Workshops No.1 (x 4)
- 6:30pm Official Opening
- 7.00pm Dinner
- 8.30pm Informal picture show – delegates to present.

Saturday 20th November 2010

- 6:30 Free Satyananda Yoga Meditation with Peter Visser
- 9am Keynote Address: Ken Finch
- 10.15am Morning Tea
- 10.45- 12.15 Workshop No. 2 (x 6)
- 12.15pm Lunch
- 12:55pm Group Photo at the Eden Park Stage
- 1.00 pm Nature PlayScapes – Mini workshops proudly sponsored by NaturePlay NZ. Ltd
- 2.00pm Workshop No. 3 (x 6)
- 3.30pm Afternoon tea
- 4.00pm Informal Discussion Groups
- 6.00pm Dinner & Entertainment
- 8.00pm Keynote Address: Rusty Keeler (Slide Show)
- 9:30 ish Bonfire

Sunday 21st November 2010

- 6:30 Free Satyananda Yoga Meditation with Peter Visser
- 9:30am Workshop No. 4 (x 5)
- 11.15 am Closing Ceremony
- 11.45am Light Lunch

Workshop Details

Please note we are still collecting some information from presenters, keep checking website for updates or subscribe to newsletter

Workshop No. 1 - Friday 19th November 2010 - 3:30 - 5:00 pm

1. Rusty Keeler, Spencer, NY, USA

[Planet Earth Playscapes]

Workshop title:

Dream & Draw your playscape

This workshop will help you dream and draw a master plan for your own outdoor environment. You'll see examples of natural play environments from around the world built by communities of people just like you. A variety of developmentally-appropriate environments will be highlighted full of hills, pathways, sculpture, hidey nooks, fountains, musical elements, sand and water and more. The real fun comes when you roll up your sleeves and begin to plan your own natural playscape. Together we will brainstorm the unique resources and materials of your community, look at who could help you with your project, and begin dreaming and drawing the playscape possibilities!

2. Anna Murphy, Whangarei NZ

[Eco Solutions]

Workshop title:

The magic of compost!

Learn how to create black gold! Everyone can learn to make compost – you can make it at your centre using some of the organic waste you produce. This natural fertiliser can then be used in your gardens, for pot plants or to feed your trees. Teach your children about how exciting these changes are – composting is the oldest form of recycling! We can help the earth and save money while learning about living sustainably.

3. Open Spaces Staff, Whangarei NZ

[Open Spaces Preschool Academy]

Workshop title:

"The Wild Woods through the Seasons"

4. Genevieve Simperingham, NZ

[Peaceful Parenting Institute]

Workshop title:

EQ: What is Emotional Intelligence and how can we foster it

Workshop No. 2 - Saturday 20th November 2010 - 10:45 - 12:15 pm

1. Ken Finch - from Nebraska, USA

[President & Founder of Green Hearts Institute]

Workshop title:

Enhance your Outdoor spaces with Nature based play – the easy & affordable way.

Join Keynote Presenter Ken Finch to delve deeper into easy and affordable approaches to enhancing your early childhood outdoor spaces for more nature-based play. Bring your own ideas, successes, and challenges to share!

This workshop will be repeated on Sunday morning

2. Cheryl Greenfield, NZ

[Programme Leader of the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Teaching) at Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT).]

Workshop title:

Optimal spaces & places in early childhood settings. Research findings

Eight themes have emerged from research undertaken with New Zealand early childhood centres, which Cheryl will share with you, along with photographic data that was gathered. The findings of the research answer the following questions:

1. Why do you see this as an optimal space/place?
2. Why do you consider this aspect of the outdoor environment to be so valuable in terms of children's holistic development?
3. What is it that you think the children like about it?
4. What do you think contributes to this space/place being so appealing, inviting and/or well used?

3. Annemarie Zwack, from Spencer NY, USA

[Visual Artist, ZwackArt]

Workshop title:

Building Fairy Houses

Using the natural materials of your local environment, participants will build small scale, one-of-a-kind, organic structures that engage the imagination, challenge the maker to be resourceful with materials, and to see the natural world with new eyes. Using tree bark, berries, leaves, nut shells, shells, grasses, sticks, flowers, moss, pebbles, & perhaps a little clay, we will each create tiny worlds for the imagination to inhabit. Join in the fun and experience the transformative practice of seeing with the imagination as you engage in the play possibilities of the natural world.

Workshop No. 2 - Saturday 20th November 2010 - 10:45 - 12:15 pm

4. Pennie Brownlie, NZ

[Babywise, Accomplished author & early childhood educator]

Workshop title:

With New Eyes

Planet Earth is a Living Body with different names depending on who is telling the Earth Story and naming her: Planet Earth, Mother Earth, Papatuanuku, Gaia are four names you are likely to hear here in Aotearoa-New Zealand. You and I are an integral part of the Life that is this Earth. In this workshop we will look at ways to think and to talk about our Earth Home which acknowledge our interconnectedness. We will explore how our words and our stories underpin our behaviour, and ponder building respectful relationships with the Circle of Life. We will look at the familiar with new eyes.

5. Mate Poa & Aggie Wynyard, Moerewa NZ

[Mokopuna o Moerewa Early Childhood Education and Care Centre]

Workshop title:

Nikau Atawhai

The nurture of children has traditionally been the responsibility of women. This Nikau workshop allows you to explore the similarities of how this rakau Atawhai (nurture) it's young to blossom like our tamariki/Mokopuna. There are many uses that the Nikau can be used within our Kohungahunga.

6. Anna Gentry, Ngunguru NZ

[NaturePlay NZ, Dip Tch, Bed, ECE facilitator, Environmental educator]

Workshop title:

Indigenous Wisdom for 21st Century learning

Ancient cultures & indigenous peoples recognized natures power, worked with it in their daily lives and recognized nature was their teacher. Join Anna to journey into this knowledge & learn how old ways can direct us in a 21st century living & learning context. Anna will share her insights, which will include useful tools for all centres. For those taking on a new approach with nature education, and to those well embedded in their programme, a time to reflect. The gems of this workshop will be insightful, practical and hands on to help you create visionary 21st learning & living with children.

Workshop No. 3 - Saturday 20th November 2010 - 2:00 - 3:30 pm

1. Rusty Keeler, Spencer, NY, USA

[Planet Earth Playscapes]

Workshop title:

Building in the Outdoor Play Scape

Experience the wonder and excitement of creating natural structures in the outdoor play scape of Open Spaces Pre School. Rusty Keeler and Cherry Daley (Open Spaces) have planned a hands-on construction experience for you. It might be a willow hut, a sunflower room or another exciting building project! Gather 10 minutes early so you have time to walk up to the centre with the group and get the most out of this experience. (Gathering place will be identified in your program package.) Presenter, Rusty Keeler is our keynote presenter who has built many exciting structures on playgrounds all over the world.

2. Jonny Holtom, Wellington NZ

[Early Childhood Educator, Childspace]

Workshop title:

Up-cycling and Native Seedling Rescue

Using discarded untreated wooden pallets we will build a bird feeder to promote native seed dispersal and wooden planter boxes in which to pot the baby trees that begin to appear thanks to our feathered friends. I will demonstrate the building process with a focus on child involvement and tool safety protocol with the Tamariki. We will discuss native seedling identification, conservation and permaculture in action, and aim for our participants to have built a feeder, a planter, and rescued a native seedling. Most of all we will have fun whilst empowering each other to help create a more sustainable future.

3. Murray Gibbs, Whangarei NZ

[Lecturer, Visual Arts, Northtec]

Workshop title:

Nature as object

This workshop focuses on the natural world as both a source of materials and conceptual inspiration for art making. Participants will work with natural materials to create site specific organic creations. These will form an amorphous based art exhibition within the "Wild Woods" environmental art gallery.

4. Anna Gentry, Ngunguru NZ

[NaturePlay NZ, Dip Tch, Bed, ECE facilitator, Environmental educator]

Workshop title:

The Living Classroom

To create a future world of beauty we must know & be beauty filled. Let Nature be the filler. Discuss why & how, and learn what you can do to establish living classrooms. Let the "living nature" guide your daily programmes, seasonal rhythms.

Workshop No. 3 - Saturday 20th November 2010 - 2:00 - 3:30 pm

5. Linda Petrenko, Auckland NZ

[Dip Tch ECE, BED, Small Kauri ECE centre Mangere Bridge]

Workshop title:

Breaking down the barriers

This session will focus on confronting and breaking down the barriers that keep children inside. We will look at simple modifications to city centre environments to assist in the development of interesting and varied environments that promote outdoor and nature engagement.

6. Genevieve Simperingham, NZ

[Peaceful Parenting Institute]

Workshop title:

Therapeutic Play

Learn how to support and interpret the child's developmental growth through their play. Playing for children is a rich world of communication, learning, growing, exploring, healing and resolution. "Playing is Saying".

- Through their play children:
- communicate complex feelings that they don't yet have the vocabulary for,
 - work to resolve fears and stresses,
 - release anxieties through laughter,
 - explore, practice and experience their world,
 - gain confidence and skills in relating to others,
 - work to generally regain emotional and mental balance
 - and so much more ...

Learn how to interpret and support the child's developmental growth and healing through their play. Learn to use play to create specific opportunities to help children overcome shyness, aggression, fears, separation anxieties and other specific stumbling blocks that you identify.

Workshop No. 4 - Sunday 21st November 2010 - 10:15 - 11:45 am

1. Ken Finch - from Nebraska, USA

[President & Founder of Green Hearts Institute]

Workshop title:

Enhance your Outdoor spaces with Nature based play – the easy & affordable way.

Join Keynote Presenter Ken Finch to delve deeper into easy and affordable approaches to enhancing your early childhood outdoor spaces for more nature-based play. Bring your own ideas, successes, and challenges to share!

This workshop is the same as on Saturday morning

2. Pennie Brownlie, NZ

[Babywise. Accomplished author & early childhood educator]

Workshop title :

Earth Dance

"We are aware that organisms and the environment are one process, trees are our lungs, rivers and waters and oceans are our circulation, the earth recycles as our physical body, and the atmosphere is our breath. Let us show in action that we know we are one ecosystem."
Deepak Chopra

In this workshop we will dance circle-dances and Dances of Universal Peace which acknowledge that we are a part of Nature, not apart from Nature.

3. Mandy Sunlight, NZ

[Tutor in flax weaving, a tikanga (protocols) Maori perspective at maraes]

Workshop title:

Traditional Flax weaving

Come & learn traditional skills in flax weaving, so you may pass this knowledge on to the tamariki. Mandy will provide a variety of traditional weaving materials to work with. These include : korari (flax), kuta (water reed), pingao (sand sedge),ti kouka (cabbage tree), pua shell, other shells, leaves and feathers. She will demonstrate muka (flax fibre) extraction, provide many weaving books and photo albums to peruse and teach simple, basic weaving of putiputi (flowers) and bracelets and invite participants to engage with all of these opportunities.

4. Sue Guiney, Whangarei NZ

[Dip Tchg (ECE), Kindergarten teacher]

Workshop title:

A Kiwis impression of European Forest Kindergarten

Sue was the recipient of the Northland Kindergarten Association's "Kauri Scholarship", and traveled to Scotland & Europe. She will share with you her impressions of her experience.

Workshop No. 4 - Sunday 21st November 2010 - 10:15 - 11:45 am

5. Dean Aplin, Ngunguru NZ

[NaturePlay NZ. Environmental educator & Outdoor instructor]

Workshop title:

Beyond the iron gates – Safety Management in a risk adverse society.

Join Dean for a nuts & bolts workshop on Managing Risk in the outdoors, in a New Zealand context. We will look at & work thru the complexities you may face in getting children outside, and playing / exploring in environments that may be outside your centre.

We will uncover the myths of risk management and look at how to ensure you are following simple yet effective safety management procedures for your daily activities. Plenty of take aways for you & your centre.