

ADVANCED LEARN TO PLAY



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Pretend Play is an important developmental occurrence that lends deep insight to a child's ability to achieve social competency, regulate emotions, develop narrative language and problem-solving skills. Solid Pretend Play ability assures parents and health professionals that many things are going on right for the child. Conversely, under-developed pretend play skills provide red flags of other developmental milestones that have not been met.

The Advanced Learn to Play Workshop, will provide even more opportunities for professionals to practise on real cases, and be competent on administering the PPDEC. Participants will also learn to administer the Animated Movie Test, which is another assessment tool for older children and adolescents.

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY?

Participants should already have background knowledge of Pretend Play and have attended the Basic Learn to Play Workshop. This Advanced workshop assumes that participants have knowledge of the development of pretend play, why pretend play is important for child development and have experience in pretend play assessment.

Before the workshop, participants will **participate in a case study** where they have to complete a PPEDC and plan the first Learn to Play session for a child. (Participants do it in their own time ahead of workshop)

In this highly interactive workshop, Participants will have the following opportunities:

DAY 1

 3 hours live presentation - which includes going over the case study the participants completed beforehand.
 The Animated Movie Test and the clinical reasoning for Learn to Play therapy, plus the theoretical underlying principles, therapeutic presence

DAY 2

- 3 hours live presentation (may be up to 4 hours to allow for small group work in breakout rooms)
- More on therapeutic presence with advanced therapeutic skills, more in depth work on working with children with ASD, working with parents, working with older children aged 7 to 10 years

SPEAKER



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Karen Stagnitti has worked for over 30 years in community based child and family early childhood intervention teams. She has been a staff member at Queensland University and Deakin University. In 2005 she joined the Occupational Science and Therapy team at Deakin University where she is now Professor, Personal Chair. She has been invited to present her work in Canada, UK, Denmark, Switzerland, Japan, Singapore, Croatia, Romania, Chile and Italy. She has over 80 papers published in peer reviewed journals, 20 book chapters and has been an author for five published books.



KAREN STAGNITTI

Professor | Personal Chair PhD | BOccThy | GCHE

- It was very useful to my work as a speech pathologist.
 It really made it clear how important play can be as a therapeutic tool. It shows the benefits of pretend play across lots of language and social dimensions. It also is very informative for educators to understand how early identification of poor pretend play skills is imperative in terms of social and language development.
- I think more information linked to neurology and pretend play would be great. Maybe Event Related Potentials or brain imagery scans to show the efficacy/ neuronal activity during pretend play.

- Blake 0. Speech Therapist

Karen's Advanced Learn To Play course offers a more detailed description of the importance of play, and how trauma impacts on children's ability to engage in this domain. She provides comprehensive case-study examples to illustrate the sensitive nuances of these cases.

- Georgina K. Speech Therapist



TESTIMONIALS

I had the privilege of attending Karen Stagnitti's Advance Learn to Play last year. Having already completed the Basic level training, I was already familiar with the play hierarchy and competent in conducting play assessment. I found this to be really useful for a wide age range of children and this gave me more confidence in my language therapy. As a Speech and Language Therapist I had also come across more complex cases including children with diagnoses and trauma backgrounds. Attending the Advance Learn to Play workshops supported me to deal competently and confidently with these cases in a way that I hadn't before. I particularly enjoyed the dynamic mix of videos, discussion, lectures, and case studies which helped solidify my learning.

- Charlatte H. Speech Therapist.