

For all Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists and Mental Health Professionals



# Practical and Workable Resource

for planning play activities in therapy and in development intervention settings

# **ABOUT LEARN TO PLAY**

# **Equips Pretend Play**

aims to equip children for spontaneous Pretend Play, an important developmental occurrence

### **Increase in Abilities**

in social competence, narrative language, language, selfregulation, creativity, and problem solving

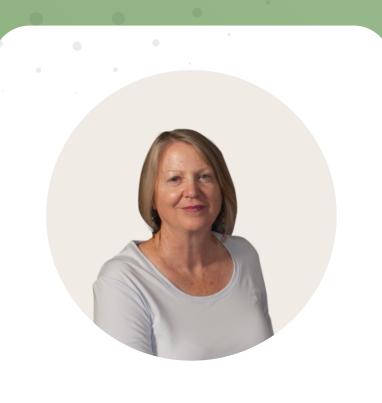
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# **OUR SPEAKERS**



**KAREN STAGNITTI** 

**Emeritus Professor** 

Karen Stagnitti is Emeritus Professor in the School of Health and Social Development at Deakin University, Victoria, Australia. She graduated with a Bachelor degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Queensland and has worked for for over 30 years in community-based and family early childhood intervention teams as part of a specialist pediatric multidisciplinary team.

She has developed several play assessments including: Child- Initiated Pretend Play Assessment 2, the Pretend Play Enjoyment Developmental Checklist and the Animated Movie Test. From these research, Learn to Play Therapy was developed.

Throughout the years, Karen has been invited to present her work in nationally and internationally, including Canada, UK and many more.



### **BELINDA DEAN**

Registered Nurse, Play
Therapist, Lecturer in Child
Play Therapy

Belinda Dean is a qualified Registered Nurse, Play Therapist, Lecturer in Child Play Therapy and PhD Candidate at Deakin University. She has over 20 years of experience with a focus on Child and Adolescent Health & Development, Mental Health, and Community and Family Health.

She also has focused research and presented nationally on Storying Beyond Social Difficulties with Neuro-Diverse Adolescents. Belinda is the co-founder of Light Heart Publishing and Play-Based Learning Pte Ltd. Belinda is passionate about play based models to promote early intervention of biopsychosocial health through play therapy.

Belinda's main areas of research are play-based social skill programs to support neuro-diverse adolescents, integrating therapeutic play into nursing and allied health practice.

# WHAT WILL YOU TAKE AWAY?

- CASE STUDIES
- VIDEO ANALYSIS
- INFORMATION SHARING
- A FUTURE OR TRENDS UPDATE
- LEARN TO PLAY THERAPY PROCESS
- METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES
  - GROUP PRACTICE OF THE CORE SKILLS







In Conjunction with:



# **Activities**

#### DAY1

- Introduction to the development of pretend play from 12 months to 5 years
- Assessing a child's playability using the Pretend Play Enjoyment Developmental Checklist.
- Discovering the links between pretend play, theory of mind, narrative language and self-regulation
- An overview of the neurobiology of play

#### DAY 2

- Introducing theoretical principles of Learn to Play Therapy.
- Principles and process of Play Therapy
- Introduction to the 11 key play skills that are an essential part of a child's ability to play.
- Guidelines on identifying children that can benefit from Learn to Play Therapy
- Introduction and discussions in engaging children in play.

# **Testimonials**

Learn to Play is an invaluable therapy tool for all Pediatric Therapists. The program is evident-based, consolidated from Dr Karen Stagnitti's research and decades of practitioner experience. It offers clinicians a solid conceptual understanding of the play development stages from infancy to preschool.

As a therapist, I find the literature insightful and the application of the program practical and feasible. In my therapy intervention with young children with various developmental delays, I am able to elicit language, and symbolic and imaginative play skills in a fun and spontaneous contexts.

#### **LORELLE N**

Speech and Language Therapist

It was so insightful to shift the mindset from "teaching the child what to do" to "teaching the child the meaning through Play", From the videos shared, it gives me the encouragement and hopes that with patience and the proper support, children can develop meaning in their play and shift the way they play. The workshop also helped me to understand the assessment and decide what kinds of Play to work on with a child.

#### **ANONYMOUS**

Speech and Language Therapist



As an OT, I find myself working a lot on skills such as fine motor, sensory processing, gross motor, etc, whereas a child's main occupation is playing. Attending this workshop helps to tie everything together. It's like back to basics yet mind-blowing!

#### **EUNICE H**

Occupational Therapist

I work with fairly low-functioning kids and was looking for something to add on to floortime to build play levels and I think this is perfect.

#### **GAYATHI**

Owner of Clinic

ORGANIZED BY: TOTAL COMMUNICATION THERAPY, SHADOW ADVANTAGE AND LEARN TO PLAY EVENTS





