

# Training and Education 2025



**City of  
Whittlesea**

For professionals supporting  
children and families

City of Whittlesea Recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea

## Message from Amelia Ryan Manager, Children and Families

I am delighted to present the City of Whittlesea’s 2025 Training and Education Program, tailored for professionals working with children and families within our community and beyond.

Each year, we collaborate with our partner organisations to provide high-quality training and education. We also create networking opportunities for individuals who engage with and support children and families accessing services and programs in our community and surrounding areas.

As a proud signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter, the City of Whittlesea is committed to collaborating with our partners to help create supportive environments and services for children and families to thrive.

Our 2025 program offers a diverse range of opportunities, including bus tours, networking events, and Communities of Practice sessions that focus on inclusion and best practice. These sessions will equip you with the skills to meet the National Quality Standards and deliver exceptional services to your community.

I encourage you to take full advantage of this year’s program, immerse yourself in the learning opportunities, and connect with others in the sector.

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the amazing work you do with our children and their families within the City of Whittlesea. Thank you for nurturing their curiosity, fostering their development, and creating a supportive environment where they can thrive. Your impact goes beyond the classroom, and this is evident through your commitment to the events in our calendar year on year.



**Amelia Ryan,**  
Manager Children and Families

# National Quality Standards

Each service will meet or exceed the National Quality Standards in ways that reflect their individual settings, program and community. All sessions within the Training and Education program are aimed to support services and educators’ development in at least one of the Quality Areas.

### Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

Educational program and practice of educators are child-centred, stimulating and maximise opportunities for enhancing and extending each child’s learning and development.

**Standard in focus –**  
**Standard 1.1 Program:**  
The educational program enhances each child’s learning and development.

**Element in focus –**  
**Element 1.1.2 Child centred:**  
Each child’s current knowledge, strengths, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation of the program.

### Quality Area 2: Children’s health and safety

Children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health, safety and wellbeing.

**Standard in focus –**  
**Standard 2.2 Safety:**  
Each child is protected.

**Element in focus –**  
**Element 2.2.3 Child protection:**  
Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

**Quality Area 3:  
Physical environment**  
Physical environment is safe, suitable and provides a rich and diverse range of experiences that promote children’s learning and development.

**Standard in focus –**  
**Standard 3.2 Use:**  
The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play-based learning.

**Element in focus –**  
**Element 3.2.1 Inclusive environment:**  
Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child’s participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.

**Quality Area 4:  
Staffing arrangements**  
Qualified and experienced educators, who develop warm, respectful relationships with children, create predictable environments and encourage children’s active engagement in the learning program.

**Standard in Focus –**  
**Standard 4.2 Professionalism:**  
Management, educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.

**Element in focus –**  
**Element 4.2.1 Professional collaboration:** Management, educators and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively and challenge and learn from each other, recognising each other’s strengths and skills.

**Quality Area 5:  
Relationships with children**  
Relationships with children are responsive, respectful and promote children’s sense of security and belonging.

**Standard in focus –**  
**Standard 5.1 Relationships between educators and children:**  
Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.

**Element in focus –**  
**Element 5.1.1 Positive educator to child interactions:**  
Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.

**Quality Area 6:  
Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**  
Collaborative relationships with families are fundamental to achieving quality outcomes for children and community partnerships based on active communication, consultation and collaboration are essential.

**Standard in focus –**  
**Standard 6.2 Collaborative partnerships:**  
Collaborative partnerships enhance children’s inclusion, learning and wellbeing.

**Element in focus –**  
**Element 6.2.2 Access and participation:**  
Effective partnerships support children’s access, inclusion and participation in the program.

**Quality Area 7:  
Governance and Leadership**  
Effective leadership and governance of the service contributes to quality environments for children’s learning and development. Effective leaders establish shared values for the service and set clear direction for the service’s continuous improvement.

**Standard in focus –**  
**Standard 7.2 Leadership:**  
Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community.

**Element in focus –**  
**Element 7.2.3 Development of professionals:**  
Educators, co-ordinators and staff members’ performance is regularly evaluated and individual plans are in place to support learning and development.



# Calendar

## February

Wednesday 19	The QIP, A&R and the Exceeding themes	QA1	10
Wednesday 26	Pathways to inclusion in early childhood	QA1	10

## March

Tuesday 4	Nature play and beyond – Showcasing good practice	QA3	11
Thursday 13	Guiding children’s behaviour	QA2, QA5	11
Tuesday 25	Nature play bus tour for Educators	QA3	12
Thursday 27	Embedding inclusion before you need to	QA1	12

## April

Wednesday 30	Engaging in Storytime	QA1	13
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## May

Thursday 8	Child Safe Standards	QA1, QA2	14
Tuesday 20	Hands on experience to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activities into your daily curriculum	QA1, QA2	14

## June

Thursday 5 Thursday 26	VAEI Best Practice Protocol Plan	QA2	15
Tuesday 17	Embedding road safety education into curriculum	QA2, QA6, QA7	15

## July

Tuesday 22	Explore and be inspired bus tour – What is happening in Whittlesea	QA1, QA3	16
TBC	‘Let’s read’ early literacy training for community professionals	QA1	16

## August

Tuesday 5	Let Them Play: Challenging the deficit paradigm of Autistic play	QA1, QA5	17
Thursday 14	Hands on experience to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activities into your daily curriculum	QA1, QA2	17

## September

Friday 5	Pathways to inclusion in early childhood	QA1	18
Wednesday 10	Children’s behaviour, resilience and self-regulation	QA2, QA5	18
Thursday 18	Planning for learning not activities	QA1	19

## October

TBC	Let’s count	QA1	20
Tuesday 7	Indigenous inspired places bus tour	QA7	20
Thursday 16	Early literacy for educators - Getting ready to read	QA1	21
Thursday 23	Let’s move: Evidence based movement solutions for today’s children	QA1, QA5	21

## November

Thursday 6	Making storytime inclusive - Sensory techniques for educators	QA1	22
Thursday 13	Shaping character: Simple steps for bringing out the best in our kids (and ourselves)	QA5	22



# Children and Families

### Whittlesea Family Day Care

- 📞 9217 2170
- ✉️ famdaycare@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familydaycare

### Education and Training

- 📞 9217 2170
- ✉️ familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familytraining

### Playgroups

- 📞 9217 2170
- ✉️ playgroups@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/playgroups

### Kindergarten Central Application Scheme

- 📞 9217 2170
- ✉️ keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder

### Immunisation

- 📞 9217 2170
- ✉️ immunisation@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation

### City of Whittlesea Youth Service

- 📞 9217 2170
- ✉️ youth@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/youth

### Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service

- 📞 9217 2170
- ✉️ mch@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/mch

### Enhanced Maternal and Child Health (EMCH) Service

- 📞 8401 6205
- ✉️ emchs@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/mch

# Early Years Network Meetings

## Whittlesea Early Years Partnership Meetings 2025

**Tuesday 4 March,**  
**12pm – 2pm**  
**The Great Hall,**  
**City of Whittlesea**

**Tuesday 3 June,**  
**12pm – 2pm**

**Tuesday 9 September,**  
**12pm – 2pm**

**Tuesday 11 November,**  
**12pm – 2pm**

**City of Whittlesea,**  
**Fountain View Room,**  
**25 Ferres Boulevard,**  
**South Morang**

To join the mailing list and receive invites for the Network meetings, please email  
✉️ weyp@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

The Whittlesea Early Years Partnership (WEYP) meets four times per year, bringing together family services and early years practitioners and professionals to share strategic information and opportunities with a focus on 'Creating a connected and responsive early years network that enhances the well-being and development of children and families in the Whittlesea municipality'

WEYP aims to:

- lead, strengthen and resource the local service sector and partnerships including schools, kindergarten and long day care.
- strengthen prevention and early intervention approaches across the service sector in response to emerging vulnerabilities including social isolation, growth impacts and family violence.

- provide a platform for sharing strategic information and opportunities that strengthen the service system and identify emerging community trends, needs, and partnership opportunities.
- utilise robust evidence to inform planning for working groups model.

*Facilitator: City of Whittlesea  
Children and Families Department*

## Playgroup Network Meetings 2025

**Tuesday 25 February,**  
**1.15pm – 2.30pm**

**Wednesday 18 June,**  
**1.15pm – 2.30pm**

**Tuesday 2 September,**  
**1.15pm – 2.30pm**

**Wednesday 26 November,**  
**1.15pm – 2.30pm**

### Online

To join the mailing list and receive invites, please email  
✉️ playgroups@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

The Whittlesea Playgroup Network meet four times a year, bringing together community playgroup leaders, supported playgroup facilitators, early years professionals and our community development officers across the City of Whittlesea.

These meetings are an opportunity to share what is happening in the playgroups space in our community, build networks and hear from our different guest speakers.



**Best Start  
Best Life**

**Early Years  
Learning  
Networks**



## Early Years Network

The Department of Education is excited to continue to offer opportunities for early childhood teachers to connect through the Whittlesea Early Years Learning Networks in 2025. All networks are facilitated by a Kindergarten Improvement Advisor from the Northeastern Melbourne Area Early Childhood Improvement Branch.

Networks run for two hours and are a safe space to connect and share with other professionals. Light refreshments are provided and a contribution to backfill costs is available for two early childhood teachers per service.

Participants receive a certificate of participation that can be used for Victorian Institute of Teaching registration professional development requirements. The Whittlesea Early Years Learning Network meets four times a year and provides an opportunity to:

- Collaborate – connect with early childhood teachers across Whittlesea from a range of settings including long day integrated and sessional programs.
- Capture and share existing knowledge and pedagogical practice
- Generate new knowledge and deepen understanding of emerging evidence-based best practice
- Find solutions to common problems of practice.

If you would like to join the mailing list for Early Years Learning network invitations, please email the Early Childhood Improvement Branch at [earlychildhood.improvement.NEM@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlychildhood.improvement.NEM@education.vic.gov.au)

## Foundation House – Early Years Program

Foundation House is a leading provider of trauma informed professional development for professionals working within early years settings. Our training is designed to support the development of knowledge, skills and confidence of practitioners working with children and families from refugee backgrounds.

Professional learning can be tailored to the needs of individual services or organisations. Options for delivery include online or in person.

The Early Years team also provides secondary consultations to early years professionals or their service to respond to a situation, problem or theme related to their work supporting children and families of refugee background. Early Years Support Officers may respond to secondary consults in-person or via phone/email.

Foundation House offer these services FREE of charge for those working with children and families in early years through the support of the Victorian Department of Education.

Please visit Early Years Calendar | Foundation House for more information about training or email [earlyyears@foundationhouse.org.au](mailto:earlyyears@foundationhouse.org.au)



## Reconciliation Australia Support for Educators

Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali program has tools and resources to support schools and early learning services to teach about, and take action towards, reconciliation between non-First Nations Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As part of the program's professional learning offerings, you can access a range of live and on-demand webinars and workshops throughout the year.

Webinars are made available on both a live and on-demand basis. Registering for a live webinar is a great opportunity to engage in real-time conversation and professional learning, guided by representatives from the Narragunnawali team and guest speakers. On-demand webinars can be registered for, and engaged with, at anytime, anywhere!

For a more interactive experience, you can also keep an eye out on workshop opportunities, as they become available to register for throughout the calendar year. Regular workshops include structured introductions to Reconciliation in Education, and dedicated sessions about Developing a Narragunnawali Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and refreshing a Narragunnawali RAP through time.

Time spent engaging in Narragunnawali webinars and workshops can also be added to your Elective Professional Development hours.

[narragunnawali.org.au/webinars-and-workshops](https://narragunnawali.org.au/webinars-and-workshops)





# February



## The QIP, A&R and the Exceeding themes. How to stop going weak at the knees

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Wednesday 19 February, 6.30pm – 8pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: \$40

 [trybooking.com/CWZEK](https://trybooking.com/CWZEK)

This session will outline the ‘Assessment and Rating’ process, increase your skills in making the QIP simple and authentic to your service and how to embed the exceeding themes in your everyday practice.

- Understand what the Authorised Officer will observe, sight and discuss.
- Gain confidence in articulating what you do and why. Sell your pedagogy.

*Facilitator: Louise Dorrat*



## Pathways to inclusion in early childhood

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Wednesday 26 February, 2pm – 3.30pm

Online

Cost: Free

 [trybooking.com/CWZEM](https://trybooking.com/CWZEM)

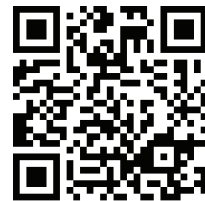
This session will cover programs that support inclusion in an early childhood context:

It will introduce and discuss the programs, within an early years setting, which support the inclusion of children in learning and care.

- Developing an understanding what the available programs are
- How they can work for your service
- How you can access the programs
- Funding guidelines and options: (pathways), including what documentation is required.

We will provide a mind map as part of this session and process.

*Facilitator: Inclusion Support Team, Preschool Field Officer and KIS Team*



# March




## Nature play and beyond – Showcasing good practice

### QA3: Physical Environment

Tuesday 4 March, 6.30pm – 8pm

Online

Cost: Free

 [trybooking.com/CWZEQ](https://trybooking.com/CWZEQ)

Join us for this interactive and engaging session where we will showcase three services who actively engage in extending nature play or bush kinders beyond their facilitates.

The services will share information on how their outings work, practical information on how they happen and some of the barriers they have overcome to ensure good practice and safety for all involved. Use this as an opportunity to feel inspired and skilled to move forward in your planning for stepping out to your local area beyond the building and ask the questions to overcome what has been holding you back.

We encourage you to also link into the bus tour on Tuesday 25 March.

*Facilitator: City of Whittlesea Children and Families Department and City of Whittlesea Sustainable Environment Department.*



## Guiding children’s behaviour


### QA: 2 Children’s Health and Safety

### QA 5: Relationships with children

Thursday 13 March, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Online

Cost: \$40

 [trybooking.com/CWZER](https://trybooking.com/CWZER)

This session on *Guiding children’s behaviour* is designed to help early childhood educators understand and support children’s social-emotional development through positive guidance techniques as well as teaching prosocial skills. We’ll explore proactive strategies that encourage respectful and constructive interactions, fostering an environment that balances empathy with clear expectations.

Participants will learn how to interpret behaviour as a form of communication, identifying underlying needs and developmental stages that influence children’s actions. The session will also address common challenges, providing tools to help children develop self-regulation skills, make choices, and build resilience. Through practical examples educators will gain confidence in responding calmly and consistently to behaviours, using guidance as a teaching opportunity to build children’s emotional intelligence.

By the end, educators will feel equipped to create a nurturing and respectful environment that supports positive behaviour, strengthening relationships and fostering a community of mutual respect and growth.

*Facilitator: Anthony Semann*





## March



### Nature play bus tour for educators

#### QA 3: Physical Environment

Tuesday 25 March, 12pm – 4pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: \$20

[trybooking.com/CWZEU](https://trybooking.com/CWZEU)

Following on from our Showcasing nature play (Tuesday 4 March) session, we encourage you to join us outdoors to network and engage with like-minded nature play enthusiasts to build ideas and gain connections on how to use the outdoor space. We will visit areas ideal for nature play or bush kinders where we will show fun activities with the support of Eco Explorers which you could add to your plans for outings or in your own outdoor spaces.

Use the time to be creative to consider what can happen when out in nature, what learning can take place and how the outdoor space can be as important as what learning happens indoors at your centres. You will also have an opportunity to connect with the City of Whittlesea team to hear about the networks of natural reserves right on your doorstep.

Join us for an afternoon of fun, exploring and play and remember to dress for the outdoors and for easy walking.

*Facilitator: City of Whittlesea Children and Families Department and City of Whittlesea Sustainable Environment Department.*



### Embedding inclusion before you need to

#### QA 1: Educational program and practice

Thursday 27 March, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: Free

[trybooking.com/CXCDA](https://trybooking.com/CXCDA)

Join us for an insightful professional discussion on proactive measures for including children with additional needs in your classroom. Explore the art of preparing well in advance and learn more about creating effective strategies (and adapting them) to ensure inclusion within your learning environment and service.

Engage in meaningful dialogue with experts in inclusion support who will share ideas that will help you ensure that every child's educational journey is one of learning, support and growth.

*Facilitator: Victorian Inclusion Agency (Community Child Care Association).*



## April



### Engaging in storytime

#### QA1: Educational program and practice

Wednesday 30 April, 6pm – 8pm

Online

Cost: Free

[trybooking.com/CXDLX](https://trybooking.com/CXDLX)

Every public library plays a vital role in fostering early literacy. At Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL), a variety of storytime sessions are offered regularly, catering to children of all ages. Our sessions cultivate a love for reading and provide essential foundational literacy and reading skills. To participate in your local library's early literacy programs, visit our website Storytime at YPRL. Our programs demonstrate effective reading practices and encourage family members and caregivers to read regularly with their children.

Engaging in storytime is a FREE educational opportunity for parents, caregivers, and professionals to learn about early literacy at YPRL and the standards involved in early literacy programming. YPRL boasts rich and diverse collections along with dynamic presenters that support and enhance language and literacy skills.

*Facilitator: Yarra Plenty Regional Library.*





## May



### Child Safe Standards

#### QA 1: Educational program and practice

#### QA2: Children's health and safety

Thursday 8 May, 6.30pm – 8pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: Free

[trybooking.com/CWZEW](https://trybooking.com/CWZEW)

Join us for an engaging training session on Child Safe Standards! This session will bring awareness to the standards, empowering educators and services with the knowledge needed to foster a safe environment for children. You'll gain valuable insights to help you prepare for compliance spot checks and enhance your understanding of child safety practices and policies. Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your commitment to protecting children and creating a secure, supportive atmosphere in your service.

Sign up today and be part of the change!

*Facilitator: City of Whittlesea Children and Families Department and People and Culture Department.*



### Hands on experience to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activities into your daily curriculum

#### QA 1: Educational program and practice

#### QA 2: Children's health and safety

Tuesday 20 May, 6.30pm – 8pm

Mill Park Library, Makers Space,  
394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

Cost: \$15

[trybooking.com/CXDLL](https://trybooking.com/CXDLL)

Join Auntie Sharon, a proud Yamitji Noongar woman from Western Australia, who lives and works locally with educators, for an interactive and engaging session designed to bring Aboriginal-inspired activities into your daily curriculum. This hands-on workshop will be set up like a kindergarten or early years environment, giving you the opportunity to experience these cultural activities firsthand. You'll leave with practical resources and ideas that you can immediately incorporate into your own setting.

Spaces are limited to ensure a more personalised and impactful experience for each educator. By keeping the group small, Auntie Sharon can offer more hands-on support and ensure you get the most out of this session. Be sure to book your spot early so you don't miss this chance to enrich your teaching practice with meaningful, inclusive activities.

*Facilitator: Auntie Sharon Hughes, Yamitji Noongar woman.*



## June



### VAEAI Best Practice Protocol Plan

#### QA2: Children's health and safety

Session 1: Thursday 5 June, 6pm – 9pm

Session 2: Thursday 26 June, 6pm – 9pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: \$15

[trybooking.com/CWZFB](https://trybooking.com/CWZFB)

#### Session 1

The guidelines professional development session for inclusive Koorie perspectives were developed with the purpose to provide early years services with a step-by-step insight on how to embed processes and practices that support Koorie children, families, and community to feel a sense of belonging and connection within early years services. Resource Included: Best Practice Plan will be provided to services; the Plan will be workshopped through out the session.

#### Session 2

April Clarke will share her stories of best-practice examples and provide a thought-provoking interactive session. This session will focus on bringing Koorie Perspectives indoors and out through storytelling and simple interactive activities, to help children of all backgrounds develop a deeper understanding, respect and sense of Country, and strengthen Koorie children's connections to Country through Story. Incorporating Koorie perspectives in pedagogy enriches education outcomes for all.

*Facilitator: VAEAI.*



### Embedding road safety education into curriculum

#### QA2: Children's health and safety

#### QA6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

#### QA7: Governance and leadership

Tuesday 17 June, 6.30pm – 8pm

Online

Cost: Free

[trybooking.com/CWZFE](https://trybooking.com/CWZFE)

Louise Dorrat has been part of the Starting out Safely program since 2011 and with a team of expert ECEC leaders has developed this engaging and interactive session specifically for ECEC professionals.

Early childhood road safety education is about educators working with children and their families to develop skills, behaviours and attitudes that assist children to be safe and active participants in communities and speaks to the safety of children on our roads as passengers, pedestrians and users of bicycles and other wheeled toys. Road safety education requires intentional (thoughtful, purposeful and deliberate) planning that articulates the way educators support children to acquire these skills. Through intentional teaching decisions, educators can ensure that their program includes the resources and practices to support children's learning and development. To be effective, road safety education must be evidence based and match the child's stage of development and level of independence as a road user. This session will speak directly to the NQS and threads the NQS throughout – specifically QA2, QA6 and QA7

*Facilitator: Louise Dorrat.*





July



Explore and be inspired bus tour  
– What is happening in Whittlesea


QA1: Educational program and practice

QA3: Physical environment

Tuesday 22 July, 8.45am – 3pm

City of Whittlesea, Civic Centre,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Cost: \$40

 [trybooking.com/CWZFK](https://trybooking.com/CWZFK)

Join the Kindergarten Team in visiting early year education services to inspire your own practices! We will have the opportunity to visit the new infrastructure projects in Wollert and Donnybrook that will be opening in 2026.

*Facilitator: City of Whittlesea Children and Families Department.*



‘Let’s read’ early literacy training  
for community professionals


QA1: Educational program and practice

Term 3 – dates and times to be confirmed  
based on interest

Venue to be confirmed

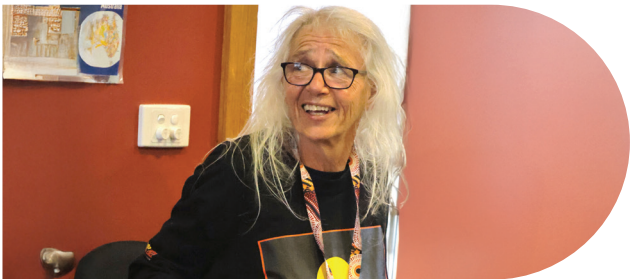
Cost: Free

Let’s read is an evidence-based early literacy program which promotes reading to children from birth to 5 years. It is a multi-tiered initiative designed to increase home literacy resources and build the capacity of families and professionals. The one-day workshop trains community professionals to encourage families and caregivers to share words, stories and books everyday with children from birth to help them establish the building blocks for literacy. The training provides up-to-date knowledge around literacy and a FREE allocation of book pack resources to help promote the importance of families reading with children from an early age.

Send your expression of interest to Asante Peters,  
Early Years Program Specialist, The Smith Family at  
 [asante.peter@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:asante.peter@thesmithfamily.com.au)

*Facilitator: The Smith Family.*

August



Let Them Play: Challenging the  
deficit paradigm of Autistic play

QA1: Educational program and practice

QA 5: Relationships with children

Tuesday 5 August, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Online

 [trybooking.com/CXDVD](https://trybooking.com/CXDVD)

The way Autistic children play has always been a hot topic in the early childhood and early intervention arenas. Historically, Autism has existed under a deficit paradigm impacting Autistic ways of being and doing, play included.

As the Neurodiversity movement gains momentum and Autistic voices are being heard for the first time, the power and potential of Autistic play is coming to light. This session will be an invitation to view play and learning from an Autistic perspective, empowering session participants to program for, participate in and extend upon Autistic play using neuro-affirming approaches that will allow Autistic children to thrive.

*Facilitator: Rhi Suagars, The Atypical Educator.*



Hands on experience to  
incorporate Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander activities  
into your daily curriculum

QA1: Educational program and practice

QA 2: Children’s health and safety

Thursday 14 August, 6.30pm – 8pm

Lalor Library, 2A May Road, Lalor

Cost: \$15

 [trybooking.com/CXCGI](https://trybooking.com/CXCGI)

Join Auntie Sharon, a proud Yamitji Noongar woman from Western Australia, who lives and works locally with educators, for an interactive and engaging session designed to bring Aboriginal-inspired activities into your daily curriculum. This hands-on workshop will be set up like a kindergarten or early years environment, giving you the opportunity to experience these cultural activities firsthand. You’ll leave with practical resources and ideas that you can immediately incorporate into your own setting.

Spaces are limited to ensure a more personalised and impactful experience for each educator. By keeping the group small, Auntie Sharon can offer more hands-on support and ensure you get the most out of this session. Be sure to book your spot early so you don’t miss this chance to enrich your teaching practice with meaningful, inclusive activities.

*Facilitator: Auntie Sharon Hughes, Yamitji Noongar woman.*





# September




## Pathways to inclusion in early childhood

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Friday 5 September, 11.45am – 1pm

Online

Cost: Free

 [trybooking.com/CWZFM](https://trybooking.com/CWZFM)

This session will cover programs that support inclusion in an early childhood context: It will introduce and discuss the programs, within an early years setting, which support the inclusion of children in learning and care.

- Developing an understanding what the available programs are
- How they can work for your service
- How you can access the programs
- Funding guidelines and options: (pathways), including what documentation is required.
- We will provide a mind map as part of this session and process.

*Facilitator: Inclusion Support Team, Preschool Field Officer and KIS Team.*



## Children's behaviour, resilience and self-regulation


### QA2: Children's health and safety

### QA5: Relationships with children

Wednesday 10 September, 6.30pm – 8pm

City of Whittlesea, Civic Centre,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: \$40

 [trybooking.com/CWZFN](https://trybooking.com/CWZFN)

Now more than ever, children need resilience which is critical to be able to self-regulate, make good decisions and negotiate the many challenges in life. Managing emotions, developing self-regulation and building perseverance and persistence are all parts of developing cognitive functioning processes in the brain (EYLF.V.2.0, p. 44).

This session examines strategies to promote resilience and identifies possible triggers for challenging behaviours.

- Hear a 7 step plan to guide children's behaviour and to promote self-regulation
- Provide children with strategies to make informed choices about their actions, interactions and behaviours (EYLF.V.2.0 p.33)
- Understand and be able to articulate to parents the benefits of play.
- Manage risks not eliminate them

*Facilitator: Louise Dorrat.*



## Planning for learning not activities

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Thursday 18 September, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

City of Whittlesea, Civic Centre,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: \$55

 [trybooking.com/CWZFQ](https://trybooking.com/CWZFQ)

*Planning for learning, not activities*, will guide early childhood educators in creating meaningful, child-centered plans. Instead of focusing on isolated activities, participants will explore how to plan with intention, supporting broader learning goals and learning outcomes. Through discussions and hands-on exercises, educators will learn strategies to observe and interpret children's thinking as a catalyst to launch into a thoughtful educational program.

Emphasis will be placed on building responsive and adaptable programs that respect children's autonomy and curiosity, while ensuring alignment with curriculum outcomes. This approach shifts the focus from "what" to do with children to "why" and "how" learning unfolds, promoting deeper, more impactful educational experiences. Educators will leave equipped with practical tools and a reflective mindset, empowering them to cultivate environments where children can engage in meaningful exploration and discovery.

*Facilitator: Anthony Semann.*





# October



## Let's count

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Term 4 – dates and times to be confirmed based on interest

Venue to be confirmed

Cost: Free

Let's count is targeted at community professionals supporting and working with children aged 3-5 and their families. This PD discusses the importance of math in the early years and collaborative partnerships with families to engage children in mathematics every day. The sessions will consist of 2 full day modules with a 4-week implementation period between Module 1 and 2. Participants who complete both modules of this PD will receive a certificate and a Bonus Resource Bag, access to a Digital Bag of resources and an Educator Handbook.

Send your expression of interest to Asante Peters, Early Years Program Specialist, The Smith Family at [asante.peters@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:asante.peters@thesmithfamily.com.au)

Facilitator: The Smith Family.

## Indigenous inspired places bus tour

### QA7: Governance and leadership

Tuesday 7 October, 8.45am – 3.30pm

City of Whittlesea, Civic Centre,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Cost: \$55

[trybooking.com/CWZFU](https://trybooking.com/CWZFU)

Join our Access and Engagement team in visiting Indigenous inspirational early education and support services. Experience high quality and inclusive environments to inspire your own Indigenous practices.

Facilitator: City of Whittlesea Children and Families Department.



## Early literacy for educators - Getting ready to read

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Thursday 16 October, 6pm – 8pm

Cost: Free

[trybooking.com/CWZFX](https://trybooking.com/CWZFX)

At Yarra Plenty Regional Library, we are a FREE service, open to all and accessible across three Local Government Areas. YPRL have rich and diverse collections, active and engaging programs and believe in being an agent for improving reading and literacy outcomes for all community members.

Getting ready to read is an opportunity for professionals to learn about their local public library service, collections and partnerships. YPRL is collaborative and during this session we share our early literacy indicators, provide you with support and encourage all to draw on the skills and expertise their local library can offer. YPRL is dedicated to improving literacy outcomes for children and families.

Facilitator: Yarra Plenty Regional Library.



## Let's Move: Evidence based movement solutions for today's children

### QA1: Educational program and practice

#### QA 5: Relationships with children

Thursday 23 October, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

City of Whittlesea, Civic Centre,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: \$40

[trybooking.com/CXDOE](https://trybooking.com/CXDOE)

Come along to this engaging session where you will meet Robyn Papworth, a dynamic force in paediatric Exercise Physiology and Developmental Education. With a master's degree under her belt and a personal journey through neurodiversity stemming from childhood trauma, Robyn brings a unique and empathetic perspective to her work. As educators and movement specialists, we're observing increasing numbers of children:

- Struggling with fundamental coordination skills
- Experiencing heightened anxiety and emotional responses
- Having difficulty maintaining focus and attention
- Requiring additional support for basic physical tasks
- Finding it challenging to regulate their bodies for learning
- During this session You'll gain practical skills and evidence-based strategies to:
- Observe Movement Patterns
- Build Your Movement Toolkit
- Transform Your Learning Environment
- Support Emotional Regulation

Facilitator: Robyn Papworth.



# November



## Making storytime inclusive – Sensory techniques for educators

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Thursday 6 November, 6pm – 8pm

Mill Park Library, 394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

Cost: Free

[trybooking.com/CWZGB](https://trybooking.com/CWZGB)

At YPRL our sensory early literacy programming supports learning and the differing needs of our community members. Our Relaxed Storytime program is a calm and welcoming space, open to all children and families who prefer a quieter storytime. Along with curated books and songs, Relaxed Storytime uses tools like a visual schedule, props, sensory items and capped numbers to create a reassuring and comfortable experience.

Sensory early literacy programming instils a lifelong love of reading and different models of storytelling, the use of symbolic play, sensory techniques and diverse sensory collections.

This Making storytime inclusive session models techniques that strengthen a child and their family’s capability to read, make connections and feel welcomed and safe within a library space. Relaxed Storytime sessions give opportunities for all children and families to experience a different model of storytelling, be creative and participate with collections and spaces.

Facilitator: Yarra Plenty Regional Library.



## Shaping character: Simple steps for bringing out the best in kids (and ourselves)

### QA 5: Relationships with children

Thursday 13 November, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

City of Whittlesea, Civic Centre,  
Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

Cost: \$40

[events.humanitix.com/shaping-character](https://events.humanitix.com/shaping-character)

An introduction to UN-endorsed strategies for nurturing children’s strengths, enhancing behaviour, and fostering positive self-esteem using virtues-based communication. Do you want...

- strategies to better support the children you work with?
- to expand your communication toolbox with empowering language?
- to nurture a culture of character- like care, respect and kindness- in your classroom/centre?

This 2-hour session will introduce the UN-endorsed global initiative the Virtues Project™, with a focus on strategies for recognising children’s strengths and supporting them to realise their potential. Participants will learn practical language and communication tools to help children understand the inherent qualities of their character- their virtues. The workshop will explore the language of virtues and how it can be used to enhance or guide children’s behaviour, strengthen their character, and establish the foundations of positive self-esteem.

“It is a completely different way of communicating with not just kids but everyone. I think it will lead to more calmness and joy in the world around us.” - Participant



Facilitator: Alice Gomez, Facilitator & Empowerment Coach  
- The Virtues Crew.



## City of Whittlesea Early Years Conference 2026

Join the City of Whittlesea for the 12th Early Years Conference—an event designed for early years professionals.

The conference for early years educators will explore important themes of trauma and it’s impacts on young children. The day will offer a blend of insightful discussions and practical evidence-based strategies. Educators can learn, reflect, and leave with tangible ideas to make a positive difference in children’s lives.

Bookings are essential. Take advantage of our super early bird tickets released in March 2025.

Keep an eye on the website for updates on tickets, keynotes, workshops and more information on the day. [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Early-Years-Conference](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Early-Years-Conference)

## Training and Education 2025

### Programs supporting parents, carers and professionals in the community

Council welcomes your comments and suggestions on the training sessions and programs. To provide feedback or to promote parent, early years or youth training sessions in the Training and Education 2025, please contact the Training and Engagement Facilitator on **9217 2170** or email [familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au).

## Program cancellation and refund policy

1. The City of Whittlesea reserves the right to cancel a program.
  - Cancelled programs may be postponed and rescheduled to a new date.
  - If a program is cancelled, registrants will be offered a full refund.
  - If a program is postponed, those registered will be given the option of transferring their booking to the same program on the new date.
2. Cancelled or postponed programs: All registrants will be advised directly ASAP.
3. Rescheduled program: Registrants will be contacted with a new date and time. If the new date is unsuitable, a full refund will be offered upon request.
4. Cancellations received within 5 days of the date of the program will not be eligible for a refund.
5. Refunds will not be available for those who choose not to attend.



## Training and Education 2025

City of Whittlesea, Civic Centre  
25 Ferres Boulevard,  
South Morang

For more information visit the individual  
trybooking link for the program,  
email [familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)  
or call us on **9217 2170**.

Bookings are required.

For all programs please visit



CityOfWhittlesea



citywhittlesea



Free telephone  
interpreter service

**131 450**



City of Whittlesea is a signatory to Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter.



**City of  
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