

Abstract : Dr Tamara Bromley

Submission Type : 10 minute lightning talk

Abstract Title : Educators empowered to light the way for literacy through oral language in early learning

Abstract Text : Strong oral language and literacy foundations 'light the way' for children's future learning, and participation in society (Williamson et al, 2023).

This presentation will share results of an ongoing participatory action research located in regional WA in which various research- based oral language strategies are being trialled alongside educators through play-based pedagogy in early learning. The project is investigating how best to empower early childhood educators to maintain the focus on play and oral language to facilitate children's early literacy.

Much research, such as Taylor & Boyer (2020), advocate for play-based pedagogy in early childhood. Further, researchers such as Nicolopoulou et al (2015), support the use of play-based approaches to facilitate language and literacy in young children. The nationally mandated curriculum framework, *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The early years framework for Australia* (EYLF) (Australian Government Department of Education, 2022), emphasises play-based pedagogy in early childhood education, including to facilitate language and literacy development. Yet, play is diminishing in favour of explicit teaching of language and literacy skills (Cremin et al, 2017), including in early childhood. This project aims provide research-based support for inclusion of a play-based pedagogical approaches to facilitate children's oral language, and literacy.