

# Optimising young children's learning: play matters

Please join the Murdoch School of Education for a seminar presented by Dr Sandra Hesterman, Director of Early Childhood Education at Murdoch University, and advocate for the rights of the child. In this seminar, Sandra will discuss the importance of child-initiated and self-directed play experiences, and why there needs to be a WA Play Strategy for Early Childhood Education.

The value of play in optimising young children's learning cannot be underestimated. It is paramount that children have access to quality time, space and resources to inspire creativity, develop self-regulation and resilience, support the achievement of educational outcomes, and nurture self-identity and well-being. Sandra is currently involved in Early Childhood Australia WA campaign events aimed at raising community awareness about the importance of play - that play matters! The campaign is seeking development of a WA Play Strategy, so as to ensure that the child's right to play is clearly transparent and accountable. A play strategy is timely given the demise of play in children's lives, particularly in the early years of schooling.

## About the presenter: Dr Sandra Hesterman

Dr Sandra Hesterman is Director Early Childhood Education at Murdoch University. Prior to coming to Murdoch University Sandra taught extensively in early childhood and primary classrooms in Western Australia and Canada, both in the public and independent school system. In 2004, she was awarded an Australia Research Council Australian Postgraduate Award to study the integration of information and communication technologies in Early Childhood Education. Her PhD thesis is entitled *Early Childhood Designs for Multiliterate Techno Tikes*. Sandra's continuing research interests and publications focus on the development of early childhood pedagogies, principles and practices in the WA context: in particular, how teachers support cultural and linguistic diversity in the early years of schooling. Sandra is currently a committee member of Early Childhood Australia - Western Australia Branch.



**Early Childhood Australia**  
A voice for young children

Date	Monday, 21st August
Time	4.30pm - 5.30pm
Where	Hill Lecture Theatre, Education & Humanities Building (bldg 450) Murdoch South Street campus
Cost	Free
RSVP	Participants to register via link below

[Register Here](#)

