



**Early Life Foundations**  
Education Consultancy, Research & Parent Support



# Professional Development Program Australia and New Zealand



Shona Bass



Kathy Walker

[www.earlylife.com.au](http://www.earlylife.com.au)

**Early Childhood Educators**

Including Walker Learning Play  
Based Curriculum

**2017**

# Welcome to our Professional Development Program for 2017



Kathy and Shona as Directors and the Team at Early Life Foundations are delighted to provide our PD brochure for 2017.

Early Life Foundations provides professional support across Australia and internationally for a wide range of educators and parents. This PD brochure is for educators and parents with children birth to 8 years of age.

## WE OFFER TWO MAJOR TYPES OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS AND PARENTS:

### CUSTOMISED SESSIONS AND MENTORING

means we come to you – or you can come to us – to present on any of the scheduled topics, or any other topics your school, centre or parent group may require our team of staff to support you in.

### SCHEDULED SESSIONS

are pre-set sessions with dates and topics, as listed in the brochure. Most are held at our main training rooms and Demonstration Unit in Bayside Melbourne. But we have set aside week blocks across Australia and New Zealand so we can run PD, mentoring and study tours so we can come to where you are.

We look forward to meeting and working with you at some of our professional development sessions in 2017. Please feel free to contact the ELF Centre to discuss your specific needs:

[www.earlylife.com.au](http://www.earlylife.com.au)  
[www.earlylife360.com.au](http://www.earlylife360.com.au)  
or (03) 9551 1900.

# EARLY LIFE FOUNDATIONS PHILOSOPHY GUIDING PRACTICE

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF EARLY LIFE FOUNDATIONS:

Ensures that opportunities for the development of the whole child are authentic, relevant and meaningful for all children regardless of their age, culture, family context, socioeconomic background or geographical location.

Is based on educating the whole child; education of the whole child requires understanding of child development, developmental psychology and neuroscience while acknowledging and respecting that culture, community and family have a significant impact on a child's life and learning. It places an emphasis on the social and emotional aspects of a child's life as well as the academic.

Embraces and prioritises the importance of attachment and relationships with children.

Emphasises personalised learning, explicit instruction, skills in literacy and numeracy; promotes creativity and self-expression; and embeds self-awareness, self-management and self-regulation in children's learning.

### EARLY LIFE FOUNDATIONS CENTRE

Level 1, 50-52 Sunmore Close, Moorabbin  
PO Box 364, Elwood, Vic., Australia 3184  
Phone: (03) 9551 1900 or 0427 819 727  
A.B.N. 84 669 062 465

[www.earlylife.com.au](http://www.earlylife.com.au) or  
[www.facebook.com/WalkerLearningApproach](https://www.facebook.com/WalkerLearningApproach)

# CUSTOMISED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

WE PROVIDE CUSTOMISED SESSIONS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:



1

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS AND MENTORING

2

EARLY LIFE FOUNDATIONS DEMONSTRATION UNIT GUIDED TOUR

3

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS.

The following sections provide details of each of these categories:

## 1. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS AND MENTORING

Customised sessions are where you choose a topic/area of support from our list, or a topic customised to suit your community's needs. Customised sessions are conducted anywhere in Australia or at the Early Life Foundations Centre. These sessions are for educators and for parents. Please contact ELF to book a customised session.

### CUSTOMISED SESSIONS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- > Mentoring for early childhood educators and leaders
- > Mentoring for school principals and leaders
- > School playground assessments
- > Parent information sessions
- > Mentoring for early childhood education philosophy
- > Mentoring and preparation for early childhood National Quality Framework assessment
- > Early childhood outdoor assessments
- > Bush Kinder establishment
- > Personalised learning
- > Play-based and project-based learning
- > School readiness assessment
- > Team collaboration
- > Leadership styles and mentoring
- > Mentoring on teaching and learning
- > Mentoring on Walker Learning (personalised learning)
- > Any topics we offer as scheduled, or other topics within our range of expertise that your community requires.
- > Social and Emotional Learning
- > Literacy and Numeracy
- > Mindfulness
- > Neuroscience

## 2. EARLY LIFE FOUNDATIONS DEMONSTRATION UNIT GUIDED TOUR

The Early Life Foundations Demonstration Unit (in Melbourne) is especially set up as an early childhood/early years learning environment. It can be visited by anyone working with young children to gain firsthand experience of how to establish and provide specific play-based learning provocations, materials and resources for young children. Please contact us to book a guided tour with one of our consultants or a time for your team to observe.

## 3. PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS AND PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We are delighted to offer sessions and workshops on behaviour, school readiness, school preparation and transition, resilience, the importance of play and a range of other topics for parents. Customised parent sessions and workshops can be held at the Early Life Foundations Centre in Melbourne, at your school or early childhood centre, or at a local community venue anywhere in Australia

## BOOKINGS PROCESS AND COSTS FOR CUSTOMISED SESSIONS

Please send your expression of interest via [www.earlylife360.com.au](http://www.earlylife360.com.au) or contact the ELF office for a parent consultation and to discuss your specific needs by phoning (03) 9551 1900.

### COSTS GUIDED TOUR OF DEMONSTRATION UNIT

- > \$50 per person for a group of 5 participants
  - > \$250 per group of 6 or more participants (capped at 10 participants)
- To book, please contact the ELF Centre to arrange a time for the guided tour.

### PARENT SESSIONS

PARENT CONSULTATIONS	120 + GST – Initial one-hour consultation \$100 + GST – Subsequent one-hour consultations
SCHOOL READINESS ASSESSMENT	\$500 + GST (\$50 rebate if subsequent to a parent consultation)
CHOICE OF SCHOOL CONSULTATION	\$200 + GST – Initial one-hour consultation \$150 + GST – Subsequent one-hour consultations
ADVOCACY AND PARENT SUPPORT	Please contact the ELF Centre for further information and quotes
PARENT AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS	
PROACTIVE PARENTING WORKSHOP SERIES	

### VENUE

#### MELBOURNE-BASED SESSIONS

The Early Life Foundations Centre,  
Level 1, 50-52 Sunmore Close, Moorabbin VIC  
Phone: (03) 9551 1900. All-day parking is available;  
for details see [www.earlylife.com.au](http://www.earlylife.com.au)

#### INTERSTATE-BASED SESSIONS

Venue information is provided for each session.



Not all children are ready to learn the same thing  
at the same time in the same way (Kathy Walker)

**BOOKINGS:** [www.earlylife360.com.au](http://www.earlylife360.com.au)  
**ENQUIRIES:** ELF CENTRE: (03) 9551 1900

### CANCELLATION POLICY

A minimum of 7 working days notice prior to the session date is required to cancel or reschedule a registration: credits can be used for (i) another person to attend the session or (ii) another session in the same calendar year. On occasion, details of sessions may change – please confirm all details listed on the online booking form. Full costs will be incurred for cancellations less than 7 working days prior to the session date. No refunds given for notice less than 7 days.

# SCHEDULED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

**Scheduled sessions** are for any individual or groups who would like to enrol for sessions scheduled by ELF and advertised in this brochure. These are preset sessions with dates and topics as listed in the brochure. The majority of scheduled sessions are held at the main ELF training rooms and Demonstration Unit in Bayside Melbourne. In 2017, we will also be offering a variety of scheduled sessions in a number of states and territories. Scheduled sessions are available to all educators and parents and are listed on the following pages.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS MELBOURNE

### UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR: STRATEGIES AND SUPPORT

22/2/17  
2/6/17  
15/9/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

This session supports educators in understanding why children behave the way they do. It provides strategies to assist educators in helping and nurturing children to respond and move through the range of behaviours that can arise For educators working with babies to 6 years of age.

### MASTER CLASS: INSPIRATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH KATHY WALKER OAM

24/2/17  
9/8/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

NEW  
FOR 2107

This session provides a unique opportunity to spend a day with Kathy Walker OAM.

Discussions about the state of early childhood education and education in general, educators can raise their own challenges and ask questions. It is a rare opportunity to hear and share Kathy's own thoughts and experiences in a small group situation

### DEVELOPMENTALLY AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE - YES ITS BACK!!

3/3/17  
13/10/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

NEW  
FOR 2107

The debate has been and gone. Through neuroscience, biology and genetics, we know for a fact that culture and environment alone are not the sole contributors to how a child learns and develops. This session provides a healthy overview of the mix between nature and nurture. It highlights the early signs educators need to be aware of for early intervention to ensure that any significant delay in speech, or other important and basic elements of development are not being missed. This session will cover a critical knowledge base that appears to be absent in many contemporary training and tertiary courses; temperament, brain research and basic elements of development are highlighted alongside the interplay of experience, exposure, culture and environment. Practical strategies underpinned by this knowledge are provided to assist educators in the daily decisions they make about children's needs and strengths.

### WANT YOUR LIFE BACK? EFFECTIVE AND TIME EFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION

10/3/17  
7/6/17  
20/10/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

MOST  
POPULAR

This is ELF's most popular and in-demand session across Australia. The session focuses on documentation and planning that doesn't take away your weekend or interrupt your interactions with children! It considers how educators have arrived at a point where they are so busy taking photos and writing up stories of children's learning, that it actually takes them away from their interactions, scaffolding and time with children. This session presents a realistic and practical range of strategies to document and record information. It provides templates of ideas for documentation that link to the National Quality Framework, and more realistic ways to share experiences with parents and children that save time, ink, photos and writing.

### LITERACY AND NUMERACY IN PLAY BASED CURRICULUM

24/3/17  
18/8/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

NEW  
FOR 2107

Literacy and numeracy across Birth - 5 years does not mean formal instruction!! However, literacy and numeracy are vital in these years. This session provides a range of practical examples on how to embed intentional rich literacy and numeracy provocations in open-ended experiences for early childhood education. A review of the ELF Demonstration Unit, an extensive range of photos of play experiences and planning documents that incorporate literacy and numeracy support this session. It is a must for all early childhood educators.

## SCHEDULED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

INTRODUCTION TO WALKER LEARNING PLAY BASED  
CURRICULUM – EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION21/4/17  
26/7/17  
1/11/179.30am –  
3.30pm

Walker Learning is a play-based approach to teaching and learning that is implemented across Australia and internationally in early childhood education and the early years of school. It provides systems for educators using play, intentional teaching and child development as its basis, and associated documentation in keeping with all national frameworks. The session provides an overview of how to implement WL in an early childhood program in preschools and childcare centres.

## INTENTIONAL TEACHING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

28/4/17  
8/9/179.30am –  
3.30pmMOST BOOKED  
SESSIONS  
IN 2016

As educators, we do not plan or set up children's interests for the sake of the children's interests. This session focuses on educating and intentional teaching. We remind educators they have expertise and a body of knowledge about children and how children learn through play. We don't start planning from children's interests – we plan with intention; from a starting point of expertise about early childhood development and then utilise children's unique contexts, culture and interests as a means to teaching and learning. This session provides examples of how to program with intention through play-based curriculum.

## BUSH KINDER

4/5/17  
3/8/17  
26/10/178.30am –  
3.30pmMOST  
POPULAR

Join us for a full day of learning out in the real world. We visit a Kindergarten in their bush setting for a morning of their bush Kinder program, and then head back to the Early Life Foundations Centre to unpack all the practical and theoretical considerations from the day's visit. A great day out for all childcare or kindergarten educators.

## MOTIVATING STAFF AND BUILDING PROFESSIONALISM

5/5/17  
21/7/179.30am –  
3.30pmNEW  
FOR 2107

This session provides practical strategies on how to build a strong, united professional team. Methods are explored to eradicate some of the challenges of personality clashes, leadership struggles and staff dynamics, and how to build stronger, more cohesive and professional teams working together for children with high-quality interactions. Strategies are provided to support parents and the wider community appreciating and valuing the work of early childhood educators.

## SENSORY ART EXPERIENCES IN ASSOCIATION WITH ZART

9/5/17

9.30am –  
3.30pmPRACTICAL  
WORKSHOP

Whether you are an art teacher in the early years, an early childhood educator or a classroom teacher in F-2, this session provides a rich range of practical open ended art based sensory experiences for children. The sensory experiences for children to touch, smell, and observe the natural world and to have opportunities to express themselves creatively are often challenging in the technological world. A very practical hands on workshop with a specialist artist alongside our own early childhood experts continues to make this one of our most popular sessions. Lots of take 'aways' for educators to use.

## NEUROSCIENCE

12/5/17  
4/8/17  
27/10/179.30am –  
3.30pmMOST  
POPULAR

This session is in our top three of most popular!! It focuses on using scientific evidence about the brain to guide practice. The exciting world of science, brain research and the evidence behind what contributes to personality, thinking, development, behaviour, importance of play, relationships, attachment and many more factors are often not known, taught or considered in the field of education. This session presents key aspects about the child's brain and the direct implications these have for teaching and learning. It provides an exciting, refreshing and reassuring way of using the scientific evidence to guide practice and decision-making.

## CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

17/5/17  
1/8/179.30am –  
3.30pmNEW  
FOR 2107

This session helps educators identify and understand key issues for children with additional needs, and provides a range of practical strategies with guidance for educators to meet the needs of these children. How to support these children within a group situation, how to personalise their learning and needs, how to balance the needs of a group, and to build trust, relationships and meaningful relationships with the family are also included.

Special education consultants conduct this session and are a must for any staff working with children with any additional need.

## SCHEDULED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

### MINDFULNESS

19/5/17  
24/11/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

This session takes a new and refreshing look at building, supporting and maintaining our relationships with children and families as we work as educators. The session uses the science of mindfulness theories to deepen our work with children as we scaffold, extend, guide and lead their learning, skills, emotions, behaviours and interactions. It empowers us to get back to what we know children need most – not cameras, clipboards, ipads and computers, but relationships!

NB: This session is to assist educators to become more mindful. It is not a session in teaching mindfulness to children.

### SETTING UP ENRICHING ENVIRONMENTS AND PROVOCATIONS TO SCAFFOLD LEARNING THROUGH PLAY BASED CURRICULUM

9/6/17  
25/8/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

This session is always quick to become fully booked.

A practical session on how to set up rich and engaging learning environments indoors that include provocations for learning through investigation. Observations and unpacking our Demonstration Unit alongside photos and supporting documentation are part of this very practical session. Demonstrations of how to scaffold through the provocations are included.

### EMBRACING AND SETTING UP OUTDOOR LEARNING

23/6/17  
17/11/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

A practical session on how to set up rich and engaging learning environments outdoors that includes provocations for learning through investigation. With the use of photos and demonstrations, the session provides a rich range of examples of how to add and use everyday materials within a realistic budget to assist children in their learning, engagement and exploration outdoors.

### EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE WORKSHOP (2 DAYS)

27/7/17 &  
28/7/17

9.30am – 3.30pm

GREAT FOR  
TEACHERS  
AND PARENTS

This intensive two-day seminar is led by two of Australia's top leading educators and consultants, Kathy Walker and Shona Bass. Both Kathy and Shona have academic and research backgrounds and have worked extensively in a range of areas including effective communication, relationships, group dynamics, leadership, teamwork and emotional intelligence (EI). Relationships in the workplace, the home, the community and broader society are the key to effective productivity and mental and psychological well-being. This workshop includes: an overview of the key elements of EI, using EI in the workplace, effective communication skills, assertion, empathy, workshops for skills in EI, strategies for working with families, children and colleagues, and modelling EI to others.

### INTRODUCING OPEN-ENDED ART EXPERIENCES IN ASSOCIATION WITH ZART

11/8/2017

9.30am – 3.30pm

A refreshing look at new ideas and practical strategies for early childhood and early years educators and art teachers to introduce young children to a love and appreciation of art. A practical workshop based session where hands on open-ended experiences are demonstrated alongside the modeling of the most appropriate skills, materials and resources to use with young children to set them up for success. A wide range of art experiences are shared for educators to use with their children.

### BOTANICAL GARDENS ART EXPERIENCE - A REAL NATURAL WORLD EXPERIENCE, IN ASSOCIATION WITH ZART

21/11/2017

9.30am – 3.30pm

BOOK  
EARLY,  
FILLS FAST

This whole day event is always fully booked and very popular. A whole day at the Botanic Gardens facilitated not only by the experts at the Botanic Gardens, but by a real artist and our experts from Early Life Foundations. We explore the appreciation of the natural beauty of season, growth, and the natural world and then link back to early learning across babies right through to year 2 students.

A must for early childhood and early primary educators!

## VICTORIAN BASED STUDY TOURS

### EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDY TOUR - BABIES TO 5 YEAR OLDS

17/3/17  
21/6/17  
1/9/17  
10/11/17

8.00am – 3.30pm

EXCURSION  
BASED PD

This one-day study tour is one of Early Life Foundation's (ELF) most popular professional learning sessions. It takes you to two early childhood centres to observe and gain ideas on learning environments, focus children, and how to gain new strategies and understand more about Walker Learning (WL) in early childhood. We return to the ELF Centre and demonstration unit for more ideas and lunch, followed by further professional learning on setting up intentional play spaces for rich learning, and an overview of WL in early childhood. "A great day out to see other play based experiences"

## INTERSTATE & NEW ZEALAND STUDY TOURS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

The Early Life Foundations Team will be providing a variety of PD opportunities (Study Tours, PD sessions, mentoring, and parent sessions) across Australia and New Zealand. Impact PD will be teaming up with ELF to deliver many of these sessions. The majority of the scheduled sessions offered in this program are available to be conducted interstate and internationally.

We will be at each location for a week several times during the year. Please contact us as early as possible so we can organize to conduct any of these professional development opportunities during the weeks we are in your state, territory or country. The details of these sessions will be advertised locally in 2017. Updates will be listed on FB each week. Study Tour dates are listed below and details of where study tours are being held are listed on our bookings website. Participants can book into study tours online from December 2016.

**Bookings fill quickly so contact us ASAP.**

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

13/3 to 17/3	31/7/17 to 4/8/17	16/10/17 to 20/10/17
	Study Tour: 1/8	Study Tour: 20/10

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

22/5/17 to 25/5/17	16/8/17 to 18/8/17	23/10/17 to 25/10/17
Study Tour: TBA	Study Tour: TBA	Study Tour: TBA

### QUEENSLAND

15/5/17 to 19/5/17	24/7/17 to 26/7/17	6/11/17 to 10/11/17
Study Tour: 19/5/17	Study Tour: 25/7	Study Tour: 9/11 & 10/11

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

27/3/17 to 31/3/17	21/8/17 to 25/8/17	
Study Tour: 30/3 & 31/3	Study Tour: 24/8 & 25/8	

### NEW ZEALAND

3/4/17 to 7/4/17	18/9/17 to 22/9/17	
Study Tour: 7/4/17	Study Tour: 22/9/17	



## BOOKINGS PROCESS AND COSTS FOR SCHEDULED SESSIONS

### SCHEDULED SESSIONS\*

- > Whole day – \$280 + GST
- > Half-day – \$175 + GST

### STUDY TOURS\*

- > Two-day Study Tour – \$600 + GST
- > One-day Study Tour – \$300 + GST

\*All full-day sessions include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea

### VENUE, BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

#### VENUE: MELBOURNE-BASED SESSIONS

The Early Life Foundations Centre,  
Level 1, 50-52 Sunmore Close, Moorabbin VIC  
Phone: (03) 9551 1900.  
All-day parking is available - [www.earlylife.com.au](http://www.earlylife.com.au).

#### INTERSTATE-BASED SESSIONS

Venue information is provided for each session.

**BOOKINGS:** [www.earlylife360.com.au](http://www.earlylife360.com.au)

**ENQUERIES:** ELF CENTRE: (03) 9551 1900

### CANCELLATION POLICY

A minimum of 7 working days notice prior to the session date is required to cancel or reschedule a registration: credits can be used for another:

- (i) Person to attend the session or
- (ii) Session in the same calendar year.

On occasion, details of sessions may change – please confirm all details listed on the online booking form.

Full costs will be incurred for cancellations less than 7 working days prior to the session date. No refunds given for notice less than 7 days.



## RESOURCES

A variety of resources can be purchased on the ELF online shop ([www.earlylife.com.au](http://www.earlylife.com.au)) and include the following:

### BOOKS BY KATHY WALKER



Future Proofing Your Child	\$35 AUD
Parenting	\$35 AUD
Ready, Set, Go?	\$25 AUD
What's the Hurry?	\$45 AUD

### BOOKS BY KATHY WALKER & SHONA BASS\*



Early Childhood Play Matters (Birth to 6 years)	\$50 AUD
Play Matters (ECE to Year 2)	\$50 AUD
Engagement Matters (years 3 to 6)	\$50 AUD

### DVDs



Parenting Tips	\$20 AUD
Creating an Engaging and Intentional Learning Environment	\$30 AUD
Walker Learning – Play Matters: Practical classroom demonstration	\$35 AUD

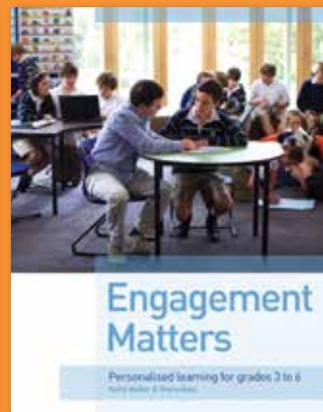
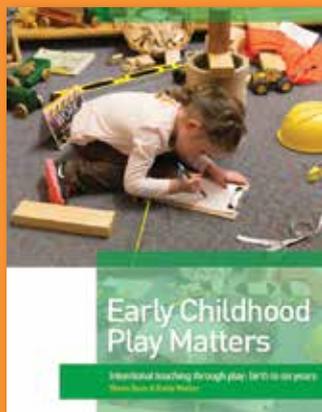
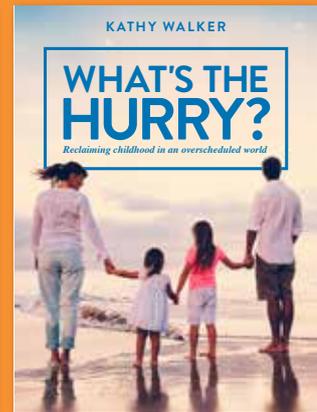
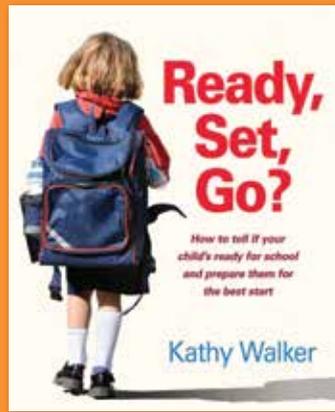
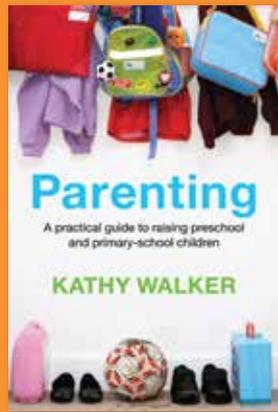
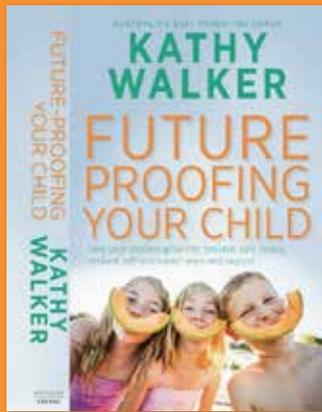
### PODCASTS



5 x podcasts different titles	\$5 AUD
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\* The Early Childhood Matters, Play Matters and Engagement Matters series can be purchased through ACER or online bookstores or at our ELF Centre.  
NB: Resources are delivered across Australia and New Zealand; minimum cost \$10 AUD for handling and postage

WE HAVE A RANGE OF RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS AND PARENTS INCLUDING: BOOKS, DVD'S, ONLINE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT MODULES, AND PODCASTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO THE ELF ONLINE SHOP.



## EARLY LIFE FOUNDATIONS

Telephone (03) 9551 1900  
 P.O. Box 364, Elwood, VIC 3184  
 A.B.N. 84 669 062 465

[www.earlylife.com.au](http://www.earlylife.com.au)

Early Life Foundations and Walker Learning provide evidence based practice.

Check out our Facebook page!  
[www.facebook.com/WalkerLearningApproach](http://www.facebook.com/WalkerLearningApproach)

Instagram:  
 Early\_Life\_Foundations

We are now on Pinterest  
 Check out our boards!

Twitter: EarlyLifeFoundations

