

MIDCOAST Family DAY CARE

Your invited to our 2016 Conference:

‘TRANSFORMING OUR THINKING ON CHILDREN’S PLAY’



Saturday 20th August, 2016

Novotel Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour

8:30am to 5:00pm

\$160 per person (\$145 - MFDC educators)

(Price includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)



Presenters: Niki Buchan and Dale Eadie

Trade Exhibits will also be available offering resources to purchase

Call Sue on 0429 825 851 for bookings and further information

On behalf of the staff at Midcoast Family Day Care, we warmly invite you to our inaugural Conference.

Ideally we are hoping that educators will walk away from this conference feeling:

- **EMPOWERED** – to adapt and transform your thinking about play, empowering children to be children resilient, curious and independent beings.
- **INSPIRED** – with sustainable and affordable play spaces.
- **FACILITATED** – with ways to promote meaningful documentation that is *for* and *with* children rather than *about* children.

Throughout the workshops and keynote addresses, the presenters will be exploring what play looks like around the world and the different types of play children can use to support contextual learning. We will explore the adult role and how educators can facilitate high quality play or challenging play within any setting.

We also often hear frustrations about how documentation is taking educators away from the children. In this conference, we will unpick what meaningful documentation looks like, who we are doing the documentation for and how documentation is used for planning children's experiences through their interests.

Keynote and Workshop Presenter Biography – Niki Buchan

Niki Buchan is originally from South Africa and now works in Australia. She originally has a biomedical background, but always had a love for being outdoors in nature. This is evident in her work with both adults and young children for the past 35 years. She also founded her own Family Day Care, was a Director of a preschool, the owner and manager of 3 centres for children from birth to 6 years in South Africa. These all had the focus on children's ability to learn naturally.



Niki has also been the Director of the first outdoor Forest/Nature Kindergarten in the UK, which she helped set up. She now works in Australia as a childcare services manager, early childcare consultant and has been instrumental in supporting the growing nature/bush school movement.

In Niki's keynote speech, Niki will inform us about how play looks around the world and amongst her travels. She will explore the difference between interference and interaction in play, showing us the role adults can have - knowing when to step in and teach or when to step back to allow learning to happen naturally.

In Niki's workshop, she will show us how to document meaningfully - unpicking some of the challenges we face as educators. Niki will share with us her simple framework for documentation where the emphasis is on documenting WITH children and FOR children rather than ABOUT children.



Workshop Biography – Dale Eadie

Dale has been an educator in both Long Day Care, Before and After School Care and now Family Day Care for over 12 years starting later in life after raising her own four children. She has a background in music and for many of her younger years travelled with her family around Australia in a country music show, which is where she believes her emergent thinking was nurtured.



Dale is currently the owner/ educator of Puzzles Family Day Care in Western Sydney NSW and was the 2015 Australian Family Day Care Educator of the Year. Dale created the Puzzles Connection as an offshoot from her successful face book page 'Puzzles Family Day Care' where she shares her ideas on creating sustainable, affordable and engaging play spaces for the children in her care.

Dale's workshop will address her belief that

“regardless of the space or budget can have, exciting play environments can still be easily created that will enhance and support children's play and learning while at the same time keeping educators inspired and excited.’

In this workshop, Dale will explain how it does not need to cost money to set up engaging environments. Incorporating sustainable practices as well as creating small world setups and storage solutions is easier than you think. You will learn about how to design and create authentic environments displaying emphasis on affordability and sustainability. She will also share the ‘how’ and ‘why’ behind her play spaces and shares where she sources her provisions.



About the Venue

Novotel Pacific Bay Resort

The resort is located 3kms north of Coffs Harbour, in the picturesque location of Charlesworth Bay. It is framed by ocean, mountains, natural forest and banana plantations.



Accommodation Packages

The contemporary rooms feature balconies, flat-screen TVs, tea and coffee making facilities, mini fridges and Wi-Fi (fee). Suites add spa baths; apartments offer lagoon views, and penthouses have rooftop patios with hot tubs and BBQs. Room service is available.

Amenities include beach access, 3 outdoor pools, a spa and a 9-hole golf course. There's also a restaurant with a terrace, a casual bar, tennis courts and a kids' club.

Accommodation Packages are available if required. Please book your accommodation directly with the resort and please state that you are attending the Midcoast Family Day Care Conference.

Contact Details for Reservations

- **Toll Free:** 1300 363 360 (AU Only)
- **Tel:** +61 2 6659 7000
- **Email:** stay@pacificbayresort.com.au

Novotel Pacific Bay Resort Quick Facts

- Distance from Coffs Harbour Airport - **8 km**
- Distance from Sydney - **533 km**
- Distance from Brisbane - **397 km**
- Accommodation rooms - **130**
- Wheelchair accessible rooms - **4**
- Function spaces - **9**
- All rooms are non-smoking
- Check-in from - **2.00pm**
- Check-out - **10.00am**