

# 2016 INFORMATION PACK

Malarkey PLAYwork proudly represents

## ‘Journey into Play’

### Professional Development



with Justine Walsh & Nicole Bourke

Professional Australian  
Early Childhood Play Consultants



**Justine Walsh & Nicole Bourke** are Australian Early Childhood Play Consultants at Journey into Play who specialise in delivering professional development opportunities for the early childhood sector.

Not only do they deliver high quality professional development, they come at topics relating to early childhood education and play from a slightly different angle, providing ideas and inspiration for your service that at times may be a little unexpected.

Proudly represented by Malarkey Pty. Ltd, Justine and Nicole are Australia's newest breed of PLAYworkers. Having been mentored by our very own internationally renowned UK trained PLAYworking Consultant Marc Armitage for the past 2 ½ years, Justine & Nicole incorporate the playwork principles in their training philosophy which state (in part) "Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons. "Playwork Principles Scrutiny Group, Cardiff 2005"

Offering a range of professional development topics as evening twilight lectures, full day seminars and conference presentation, including some hands on sessions, Justine and Nicole will inspire you to say yes to play every day. They will show you how to gain more space in your environment, walk you through the benefits of introducing loose-parts into your program and encourage you to open the doors to play and look at your space as 'one space' not the indoors *and* the outdoors.

Their knowledge on play, passion for the early years and down to earth approach and delivery, along with their friendly and engaging personalities, makes for a fun, informative and inspiring professional development training session. Regular feedback from participants is ... Justine and Nicole are so real! They get it ... They really get it!

Based in Victoria and available to deliver professional development training all over Australia and New Zealand, Journey into Play will provide you with the inspiration and confidence you're looking for to implement change in your setting and challenge outdated ideas and beliefs ... Spending a few hours or a whole day with these girls may just be the inspiration your team is looking for to reinvigorate their passion for early childhood education.

## Short professional development topics [1,2 & 3]

### ONE: Inviting play spaces

#### **Do you struggle to create truly inviting play spaces for the children in your care?**

Inviting play spaces are the places we provide for our children where they are free to follow their own agendas and unrestricted by adult expectations. Spaces where adults provide unspoken permission for play. The kind of environments we all loved playing in when we ourselves were children ... Remember playing with Granma's old 'stuff', repurposed items and plenty natural materials? The kinds of things that are really, really cheap to buy, fun to scavenge and often free, including of course incorporating things you already have at hand ... Usually items of little or no value to adults but in a child's eyes they are treasures!!

This topic includes a hands-on playing component.

*::: 2016 Financial investment for this session is available by emailing [admin@malarkeyplaywork.com.au](mailto:admin@malarkeyplaywork.com.au). Tell us which sector you work in and where-in-the-world-you-are and we will send you the relevant information.*

## TWO: Communicating and working respectfully with colleagues to effect change

**There are many pressures associated with our jobs so learning to communicate & work effectively with colleagues is a major aspect that can make-or-break a great team.**

Change can be hard ... really hard ... and we all know at times it can be difficult to navigate our way through workplace relationships because of differing opinions. If we don't voice our concerns when they arise however it can begin to effect our job satisfaction.

We have worked together for many years so we know well the ups and downs of teamwork. We aim you show you ways to nurture these relationships and develop a positive sense of community to ensure a stronger sense of teamwork, respect and honesty in your work life relationships.

In this session we will discuss ways to raise and tackle delicate and at times difficult issues, while maintaining your professionalism towards colleagues, families and the children in your care.

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## THREE: Play opportunities on a limited budget: A journey of op-shops, real materials and loose parts

**This session will take participants on a journey as we share ideas on how we introduced op shop and loose part finds into the environment.**

We will ask you to reflect upon your own environments and question your current practice.

We will reveal where this journey has taken us and how the questions we asked along the way all point to play being most important to children and therefore play should be the most important thing to us.

Throughout this session, participants will gain knowledge of where to seek resources, how to offer those resources and how to think about giving play spaces back to children.

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## Long day professional development topics [4 & 5]

### FOUR: Play spaces without borders

**Some people still believe that in order for children to be actively learning they need to be sitting down at a table doing ‘table-top-activities’ with things purchased from catalogues ... well it just isn’t so.**

During this full day session participants will be given space and time to immerse themselves in loose parts play ... including natural and repurposed materials.

This session will provide valuable information and experience to support and inspire you to leave with a plan of action for major change in the way you present play experiences for the children in your care, including giving away our best kept secrets on how to find and source these awesome materials.

We will encourage you to reflect on your current practice and empower you with confidence to introduce and discuss these open ended, ambiguous play materials with colleagues, committees and parents.

A visual journey that documents practical ways for creating these changes in your environment will be woven through this full day, hands on session.

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## FIVE: Myth busting the archaic term 'indoor/outdoor' program

**Do you know what the main barrier standing in your way of running a successful 'fluid' early childhood program is?**

We have heard all the excuses in the world ... blaming parents, regulations, co-workers, money, materials, time, even the weather ... but none of those are what is truly stopping you.

In this session we will myth bust the outdated term "indoor/outdoor" program. It's time to break down the barriers ... and the walls ... by highlighting the importance of running a fluid child centered program, every single day, within your setting.

We will put an emphasis on the importance of children being given time and space to spend as much of the day they choose in the outdoor environment. By supporting children's rights to choose where they play, for how long they play, with whom they play and with what they play, you can be confident in knowing you are offering best practice play opportunities for the children in your care.

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# Conference Breakout Sessions

## Selection from topic 1, 2 & 3

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# Mentoring & Support

## On-the-floor-with-staff

**We offer 2 options for mentoring & support for early years settings around topics catered to your individual needs.**

Justine & Nicole will spend 90 minutes in your setting, on the floor with staff, while the children are in attendance, taking in the environment and watching how the children engage (or don't as they case may be) with the spaces. Staff have the opportunity to ask questions and Justine & Nicole will offer pointers as to how best make positive changes to the space to enhance the conditions for playing.

This is followed up with a: **Option 1)** 2-Hour Twilight presentation OR **Option 2)** Full day training seminar

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# Malarkey PLAYwork

## proudly represents Journey into Play

For further information about Justine Walsh & Nicole Bourke from Journey into Play or to make a professional development booking please contact;

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**PLEASE NOTE:** All costs will be provided in Australian Dollars [AUD\$] & include Australian 10% GST.

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