

Learning links

Helping Kids Learn

BOOKING BONUS!

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Participant Codes

Each course has a participant code or codes to give an indication of who might benefit from attending. Please contact Learning Links on (02) 8525 8222 if you would like to enquire about the content of a particular course.

p – parent
ec – early childhood professionals
sc – school professionals
hp – health professionals

2009 Workshops for Professionals, Parents & Carers

ADHD in the early years – understanding and responding

Course Code: adh01

This workshop provides participants with an understanding of ADHD in young children, identifies the characteristics of young children who have ADHD and discusses the implications for their learning and behaviour. Practical strategies which support the play, learning and interactions of children with ADHD in inclusive early childhood settings are provided.

Presenters: Michelle Button, Lynda Taylor

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
26 Mar	Thu	Brookvale	6.00pm – 8.30pm	B
17 Jun	Wed	Kingsford	6.00pm – 8.30pm	B
5 Aug	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm – 8.30pm	B

Art, expression, inclusion

Course Code: eci07

This workshop looks at ways to evoke creativity, support choice, value difference, enhance communication and belonging through opportunities for play. We will explore strategies to enhance the arts based experience for children. Ways to promote and support involvement of children with a range of specific support needs will be discussed.

Part 1: Storytelling – a gift for embellishment.

Song/Music/Sound – creating rhythm to enrich routine.

Part 2: Movement and visual arts – chaos on the collage trolley and dance on canvas.

Presenter: Rhiannon Venables

Participant Code: ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
9 May	Sat	Peakhurst	9.30am – 3.30pm	E
3 Jul	Fri	Kingsford	9.30am – 3.30pm	E
4 Sep	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am – 3.30pm	E

Brain Gym

Course Code: eci09

NEW

This dynamic, hands on, internationally accredited movement workshop provides exercises to wake up and integrate the brain, eyes, ears and body. The exercises assist adults and children with attending, communication, organisation and relaxation. The theoretical background of this approach is explored. Effective and easy strategies are identified and practiced. Course book included.

Presenter: Sharon Gelber

Participant Code: p/ec/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
25 Feb & 4 Mar	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm – 9.00pm	F
7 & 14 Sep	Mon	Brookvale	6.00pm – 9.00pm	F
10 & 17 Nov	Tues	Peakhurst	6.00pm – 9.00pm	F

Building confidence when choosing a school ... things every parent should know

Course Code: sch01

NEW

For some families the task of finding a school that meets the child and family's needs can be overwhelming. This course provides parents with information and considerations to assist them to choose a school for their child/ren. Features to consider include – learning environment, parent participation, teacher/child relationships, individualised programs ... and more!

Presenter: Di Peacock-Smith

Participant Code: sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
28 May	Thurs	Peakhurst	6.00pm – 8.00pm	A

Counselling – basic

Course Code: cou01

Part 1 of this workshop will:

- provide opportunities to learn about basic counselling skills or refresh existing skills; and
- discuss how counselling skills can be used to build relationships with families.

Part 2 of this workshop will:

- provide opportunities to practice skills needed to respond to difficult situations; and
- provide time for reflecting on and discussing your responses.

Presenter: Liz Hopkins

Participant Code: ec/sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
18 & 25 Mar	Wed	Penshurst	6.00pm – 8.30pm	E
14 & 21 May	Thu	Fairfield	6.00pm – 8.30pm	E
12 & 19 Aug	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm – 8.30pm	E

Counselling – beyond basic – tackling the tricky stuff

Course Code: cou02

Workers often feel anxious and unsure when supporting families and colleagues with complex life situations. This two-part workshop aims to extend your counselling skills to help you deal with family issues, communicate difficult messages, respond to emotions and set personal boundaries. Participants must have completed Counselling – basic or have experience in this area prior to attending.

Presenter: Monique Cannon

Participant Code: ec/sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
18 & 25 Jun	Thu	Penshurst	6.00pm – 8.30pm	E
10 & 17 Nov	Tue	Brookvale	6.00pm – 8.30pm	E

Current brain research and implications for practice

Course Code: eci08

NEW

This interactive workshop provides a review and discussion of recent research into the links between early childhood experiences, brain functioning and children's development. It will explore how this information can influence our services and programs. Specific strategies to enhance children's resilience and implement family-centred practice in early childhood services will be discussed.

Presenter: Tracey Hassan

Participant Code: ec/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
29 Apr	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm – 8.30pm	B
16 Sept	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm – 8.30pm	B

Cut, draw, squeeze, poke ... fine motor skills for little folk

Course Code: fms01

This workshop provides information on the development of fine motor skills such as grasping, drawing, pre-writing and scissor skills. Participants will learn how to identify children in need of support. We will also provide practical activity ideas and strategies to promote the development of fine motor skills for individual children and groups.

Presenters: Sophia Andersson, Natasha Sansoni, Emma Mason

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
10 Mar	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm – 8.30pm	B
2 Jun	Tue	Brookvale	6.00pm – 8.30pm	B
20 Aug	Thu	Fairfield	6.00pm – 8.30pm	B

Learning Links can also deliver personalised courses at your preferred location. Please call (02) 8525 8222 to discuss your requirements.

Courses now available in school holidays to help you meet your professional development requirements

Does this child need help?

Course Code: eci01

The workshop will enable participants to:

- develop the necessary skills to identify infants and children who have a developmental delay or disability;
- understand the difference between identifying and diagnosing;
- understand typical growth and development;
- determine when a concern is a concern;
- understand early childhood intervention;
- raise concerns with families;
- identify ethical and cultural issues; and
- pull it all together and refer on.

Course book included.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Kerri-Ann Spanko, Melissa Murphy

Participant Code: ec/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
6 Mar	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 4.00pm	F
15 May	Fri	Brookvale	9.30am - 4.00pm	F

Expressive and receptive language delays – managing classroom practices

Course Code: led07

This workshop explores the nature of language delays and implications for children and teachers. Management strategies and practical programming ideas are discussed.

Presenter: Jill Vidler

Participant Code: sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
25 May	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
10 Aug	Mon	Kingsford	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Family centred practice and the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)

Course Code: eci03

So you're planning to run an IFSP. What is it? What do you need to know? What do you need to do? This workshop will have an emphasis on working collaboratively with families to develop a successful IFSP. The IFSP process is recommended best practice for Early Childhood Intervention and a requirement of ISP funding (Intervention Support).

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Kerri-Ann Spanko, Lizzie Eakin, Kylie McDonald, Tracey Hassan

Participant Code: ec/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
1 May	Fri	Brookvale	9.30am - 3.30pm	E
30 Oct	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 3.30pm	E

Gifted children and underachieving – visual spatial learners

Course Code: gif02

NEW

Why is your academically gifted child not performing at school? Perhaps s/he is "Twice Exceptional" and:

- reads well but struggles with spelling
- is very disorganised and easily distracted
- has keen visual skills but is poor at listening and has difficulty following oral directions
- is highly creative, inventive, imaginative and generates unusual solutions to problems
- has great ideas but rarely completes tasks and can be highly sensitive
- is good at maths, gets correct answers but can't explain how.

This workshop will explore factors underlying a visual spatial learning preference, consider methods of identification, discuss strengths and weaknesses these children possess and look at strategies for assisting their learning.

Presenter: Helen Dudeny

Participant Code: p/ec/sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
26 Feb	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Growing up with more than one language

Course Code: com03

Do you work with children who are learning more than one language?

This workshop will discuss:

- how children acquire more than one language;
- factors that influence the development of more than one language;
- bilingualism or language delay – how to tell the difference; and
- strategies to support children developing a second language.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Michelle Lee

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
26 May	Tue	Kingsford	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
28 Sep	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Including children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the classroom – practices and priorities

Course Code: asd03

This workshop identifies the challenges that may be faced by children with ASD who attend mainstream settings. Participants will explore effective strategies that respond to individual children's priorities and learning styles.

Presenter: Diane Peacock-Smith

Participant Code: sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
6 Apr	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
18 May	Mon	Kingsford	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Kids speaking up – developing self advocacy skills

Course Code: beh04

NEW

Parents/carers are often considered the "lifelong advocates" of their children. Parents are often concerned about implications for their child if they are not able to maintain this role. This workshop explores strategies for assisting children, teens and young adults with a learning difficulty or disability to develop self-advocacy skills and a greater sense of autonomy within their social, educational and community systems.

Presenter: Tracey Hassan

Participant Code: p/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
10 June	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
4 Nov	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Let's get visual!

Course Code: com02

Got the visuals but can't get started? This practical workshop will assist you to get on with the job! Participants will receive specific guidance in ways to implement visuals in their settings. Please bring examples of visuals you are using (or ones that you have in your cupboard). Ways to extend the use of visuals through social stories, play webs and sequences will also be explored with specific examples and suggestions for implementation. It is recommended that participants complete the Total Communication workshop or have equivalent experience before attending this course.

Presenters: Lynda Taylor, Vicki Cox

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
11 Mar	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
10 Jun	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
18 Aug	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Makaton – an introduction for families

Course Code: mak05

*** NEW

Want to find out about Makaton? Has Makaton been recommended for your child but not sure where to start? This informal workshop allows you to talk about Makaton with other families and get you started. You will learn signs and songs which are personally relevant to you and your family.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Jane Purcell, Jo Dawe, Michelle Lee, Kerri-Ann Spanko

Participant Code: p

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
2 Apr	Thu	Penshurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	A

Makaton – basic

Course Code: mak01

Makaton is a signing system used with children who have developmental delays, communication difficulties or speech that is unclear. Makaton can reduce children's frustration by helping them to understand what is happening and express their needs. No signing experience necessary.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Jane Purcell, Jo Dawe, Michelle Lee

Participant Code: p/ec/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
27 Feb	Fri	Brookvale	9.30am - 3.30pm	E
5 & 12 Mar	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.00pm	E
3 Apr	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 3.30pm	E
3 & 10 Jun	Wed	Miller	6.00pm - 9.00pm	E
4 & 11 Jun	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.00pm	E
7 Aug	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 3.30pm	E
8 & 15 Sep	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.00pm	E
13 Nov	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 3.30pm	E

Makaton – extension

Course Code: mak03

This workshop is designed to extend your signing vocabulary. It will introduce signs related to children's experiences at home, preschool and school and provide practise in Makaton signing through a variety of games and stories. An emphasis will be placed on combining key words into daily conversations. Participants must have completed Makaton Basic course or equivalent or have experience using Makaton.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Jane Purcell, Jo Dawe, Michelle Lee, Kerri-Ann Spanko

Participant Code: p/ec/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
11 May	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
17 Aug	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Makaton – stories, songs and rhyme to use with sign

Course Code: mak04

Want to build on your repertoire of signs and refresh your skills? This workshop provides a range of songs, stories and rhyme to use with young children using NEW and familiar Makaton signs. It is recommended that participants have completed Makaton – basic or have experience with signing.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Jane Purcell, Jo Dawe, Michelle Lee, Kerri-Ann Spanko

Participant Code: p/ec/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
5 May	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.00pm	B
12 May	Tue	Kingsford	6.00pm - 8.00pm	B
16 Nov	Mon	Miller	6.00pm - 8.00pm	B

Out of synch or not? Strategies to support gifted preschoolers

Course Code: gif02

Giftedness in the early years may be obvious with some children but go undetected or misunderstood in others. This workshop will look at impacts on friendship needs, emotional responses to the world and social development. We will explore useful strategies in responding to the child's needs both at home and in other before-school settings.

Presenter: Helen Dudeney

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
14 May	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Pen to paper – occupational therapy ideas to help children write

Course Code: fms02

This workshop provides information on why handwriting difficulties occur and how they can be identified. There will be an opportunity to explore practical remediation strategies and compensation ideas for children from infants to high school age.

Presenters: Sophia Andersson, Natasha Sansoni, Emma Mason

Participant Code: p/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
16 Jun	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
9 Sep	Wed	Kingsford	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Planning and programming for inclusion

Course Code: eci04

All children have the right to play, interact and learn together. Our early childhood programs must be responsive to the strengths and unique characteristics of each child. This workshop will discuss ways to increase all children's participation through inclusive programming practices.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Melissa Murphy, Kylie McDonald, Lizzie Eakin

Participant Code: ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
23 Mar	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
4 May	Mon	Miller	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Play and learning for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Course Code: asd01

This workshop will discuss:

- the challenges children with ASD face in the mainstream setting and how these relate to play;
- strategies to support and extend the play of children with ASD;
- how the environment can support the learning and inclusion of children with ASD;
- ways to incorporate visual supports throughout daily routines, transitions, group times and play; and
- sensory issues and the impact on the child's play and learning.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Melissa Murphy, Kerri-Ann Spanko, Lizzie Eakin, Emma Mason, Sophia Andersson

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
17 Mar	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
1 Apr	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
20 May	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
27 May	Wed	Fairfield	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
24 Aug	Mon	Kingsford	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
3 Nov	Tues	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Play, positioning and talking with babies

Course Code: bab01

When babies are encouraged to move in a variety of ways opportunities for interaction, exploration, communication and learning are increased. This workshop will discuss ways to encourage baby's movement (from birth to sitting) through daily routines; getting to know individual preferences and reading baby's cues; and what to do if there are movement difficulties.

Presenters: Ellen Dubber, Janette Biffin

Participant Code: ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
13 May	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
22 Jun	Mon	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Play power

Course Code: bab02

NEW

This workshop assists parents of infants and toddlers (0-3 years), to understand why play is necessary for healthy brain development and how it strengthens the attachment between parent and child. It also addresses how infants and toddlers grow and develop, and promotes the importance of developing everyday routines to facilitate physical, cognitive, language and social/emotional growth.

Presenter: Maree Magee

Participant Code: p

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
14 May	Thu	Miller	6.30pm - 8.30pm	B
13 Aug	Thu	Peakhurst	6.30pm - 8.30pm	B

Poo Corner – a toilet training survivor guide

Course Code: ttg01

This workshop will discuss toilet training strategies for children who are developing typically and children needing additional support.

Presenter: Tracey Hassan

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
18 Mar	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
27 May	Wed	Miller	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
21 Oct	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Positive practices in the classroom for children with ADHD

Course Code: adh02

This workshop explores the characteristics displayed by children who have ADHD. Management techniques and strategies for home and school are discussed.

Presenter: Michelle Button

Participant Code: p/sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
6 Apr	Mon	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
3 Aug	Mon	Kingsford	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
3 Nov	Tue	Penshurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Practical strategies for helping young children with Developmental Verbal Dyspraxia

Course Code: com04

This workshop will outline common characteristics of developmental verbal dyspraxia; discuss implications for children's learning; and provide practical suggestions to support children's inclusion in early childhood settings.

Presenters: Michelle Lee, Janette Biffin, Vicki Cox

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
6 May	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
29 Jun	Mon	Fairfield	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
21 Sep	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
9 Nov	Mon	Kingsford	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Promoting positive behaviours – supporting children's social learning

Course Code: beh01

This workshop provides opportunities to reflect on current beliefs and practices around supporting children's behaviour. We will explore ways to support children's social learning (behaviour) by identifying a continuum of pro-active intervention strategies. We will also discuss case scenarios and practise implementing individual strategies.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Tracey Hassan

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
11 Mar	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
1 Apr	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
3 Jun	Wed	Fairfield	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
12 Aug	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
26 Aug	Wed	Miller	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Raising concerns with families about their child's development

Course Code: eci02

Often child care workers are in a unique position to identify areas of concern about a child in their care. This workshop explores the issues around discussing a child's development with their family. You will learn practical strategies from this training as well as have the opportunity to reflect on your current practices.

Presenter: Trish Hanna

Participant Code: ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
12 Mar	Thurs	Fairfield	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
19 May	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
25 Aug	Tue B	rookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
11 Nov	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Reading Right – successful reading strategies & programs for children with learning difficulties

Course Code: led10

Much is known about teaching reading to children. A multitude of resources line our bookshelves. This workshop provides participants with the knowledge to pick the star features of existing resources and use them to their full potential to teach reading to children with learning difficulties. Software for developing reading skills will also be displayed to complement teaching programs.

Presenter: Samantha Hornery

Participant Code: sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
16 Oct	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 3.30pm	E

Ready for school – breaking down the myths about the skills children need to start school

Course Code: rfs01

What do children need to know before starting school? This workshop will reflect on traditional perceptions of school readiness by examining the continuum of emerging skills in the development of the whole child. Strategies to support the development of life skills are identified.

Presenters: Sophia Andersson, Kylie McDonald, Vicki Cox

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
17 Aug	Mon	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
31 Aug	Mon	Miller	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
2 Nov	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Ready Set Go 2009! Supporting children to separate

Course Code: scs01

Children and families often experience separation anxiety when the child takes the next step into a new environment. This workshop will help you:

- understand separation anxiety from the child's and family's perspectives;
- develop strategies to make separation easier; and
- take a planned and informed approach to supporting children who are entering new environments.

Presenters: Tracey Hassan, Janette Biffin

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
25 Feb	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
18 Nov	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Sensory Processing

Course Code: sep01

Do you know a child who never sits still; loses control easily; plays roughly with friends and equipment; appears "fussy"; is hard to get going; appears to be inattentive; and/or at times is difficult to motivate? These behaviours may result from how a child perceives and responds to sensory information. This workshop provides information about how children learn through their senses. Strategies to support individual learning styles in the home and early childhood settings are discussed through case studies.

Presenters: Emma Mason, Janette Biffin, Sophia Andersson, Natasha Sansoni

Participant Code: p/ec/hp/sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
11 & 18 May	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.00pm	E
19 Jun	Fri	Brookvale	9.30am - 3.30pm	E
14 Aug	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 3.30pm	E
29 Oct & 5 Nov	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.00pm	E

Sensory seeking or seeking attention?

Course Code: sep02

There is often a link between children's behaviour, their ability to process sensory information and understand their world and communicate. This can result in children displaying a range of behaviours such as big responses (tantrums) to little things; becoming overly frustrated, stressed, upset or angry; physical responses in interactions with peers and carers and/or avoidance of certain situations and activities. This workshop aims to provide a framework for understanding the connection between sensory processing, behaviour and communication. Practical strategies to help children participate in play, stay calm and independently manage their behaviours will be identified. Participants must have completed the Sensory Processing workshop or equivalent.

Presenters: Emma Mason, Janette Biffin, Sophia Andersson, Natasha Sansoni

Participant Code: p/ec/hp/sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
23 Jun	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.00pm	C
1 Sep	Tue	Brookvale	6.00pm - 9.00pm	C
23 Sep	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.00pm	C

Social, emotional and friendship development for gifted children

Course Code: gif01

Social skills and emotional regulation are foundation stones of a child's development. With sound skills children can have greater school success; increase their independence; interact with others more positively; establish and maintain quality friendships; and develop their potential. This workshop will look at the social and emotional characteristics of gifted children and how parents can support children in developing productive social skills and nurturing friendships.

Presenter: Helen Dudeney

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
6 Aug	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Speech and language development in young children

Course Code: com05

NEW

There are many ways we can encourage a child's communication skills, whether they are a baby, toddler or preschooler. This workshop helps participants understand when communication skills are expected for 0 - 5 year olds. Strategies to facilitate communication development are also discussed with an emphasis on using these during everyday activities and routines.

Presenter: Brooke Mitchell

Participant Code: ec/p/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
7 Apr	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
30 June	Tue	Miller	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
8 Sep	Tue	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Spelling & writing – the "other" literacy skills

Course Code: led08

This workshop explores successful strategies and programs for teaching students to improve their spelling and writing skills. The focus will be extending reading instruction techniques to include spelling and writing. Participants will leave with resources to use in their classrooms and knowledge to maximise their current teaching programs.

Presenter: Samantha Hornery

Participant Code: sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
24 Apr	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 3.30pm	E

Starting school – the gifted child

Course Code: gif03

NEW

When a child is intellectually advanced the decisions about starting school can seem confusing (when, where and how?).

This workshop will explore different aspects of this important question and help parents focus on their own child's need. The information is also relevant for staff in early childhood settings when advising parents about school readiness and enrolment options.

Presenter: Helen Dudeney

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
29 Sep	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
21 Oct	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Stop Think Do – applications for classroom teachers and health professionals

Course Code: beh02

NEW

The Stop Think Do Program provides an approach to managing challenging behaviours through the use of positive behaviour strategies. This workshop will train professionals in the practical application of the program for use in their workplace.

Presenter: Maree Magee

Participant Code: sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
26 Mar	Thu	Penshurst	4.30pm - 6.30pm	B
4 Jun	Thu	Kingsford	4.30pm - 6.30pm	B
3 Sep	Thu	Peakhurst	4.30pm - 6.30pm	B
5 Nov	Thu	Fairfield	4.30pm - 6.30pm	B

Supporting children's behaviour in the primary years

Course Code: beh05

*** NEW

As children grow their internal and external worlds become more complicated. Social expectations change, as does their understanding of the world around them. This can be a challenging time for carer's who have "part-time" care of the child (eg. OOSH services, separated parents), and when a child has a learning difficulty or disability. This workshop looks at strategies for supporting children's behaviour during this time with a focus on skills development and increasing children's self-esteem.

Presenter: Tracey Hassan

Participant Code: p/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
8 Apr	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.00pm	C
1 Jul	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm - 9.00pm	C
5 Aug	Wed	Fairfield	6.00pm - 9.00pm	C

Teacher Talk

Course Code: com06

NEW

This is the first topic in a training series based on "Learning Language and Loving It", the Hanen program for early childhood workers and teachers. Teacher Talk gives early childhood staff information and strategies to provide a rich and inclusive language learning environment.

This first topic discusses language development, children's communication styles, role of the teacher and strategies. The sessions are interactive, including evaluation of video footage and small group activities. Course book included.

Presenter: Jane Purcell

Participant Code: ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
17 & 24 Feb	Tues	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 9.30pm	G

Teaching children social skills – strategies for teachers

Course Code: sch02

*** NEW

This introductory workshop focuses on the specifics needed to teach social skills to infants and primary school students. During these years the foundation of social development is established and includes: skills needed for reciprocal play; turn taking and sharing; recognition and expression of emotions; negotiation and compromise; dealing with competition; establishing and maintaining friendships, conversation skills, and interacting within a group. The presenter will demonstrate activities that can be used during social skills training sessions. Techniques that increase the likelihood of generalising skills from group sessions to other settings will be discussed.

Presenter: Michelle Button

Participant Code: p/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
24 Mar	Tues	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
28 Oct	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Learning Links' Venues

PEAKHURST – Head Office

12-14 Pindari Road, Peakhurst NSW 2210

PENSHURST – Southern Suburbs Branch

10 Railway Parade, Penshurst NSW 2222

MILLER – South West Sydney Branch

88 Shropshire Street, Miller NSW 2168

KINGSFORD – Eastern Suburbs Branch

11 Rainbow Street, Kingsford NSW 2032

BROOKVALE – Northern Suburbs Branch

2 Alfred Road, Brookvale NSW 2100

FAIRFIELD – Western Suburbs Branch

7/9 William Street, Fairfield NSW 2170

Teaching children with disabilities about sex and relationships

Course Code: beh03

*** NEW

When should I start teaching my child about sex? What information can they understand? How do I teach my child to be safe? This workshop aims to support parents who have a child with a disability to manage this important milestone by providing information, support and resources for teaching their child about sex education, personal safety and relationships. Also relevant to carers and professionals.

Presenter: Tracey Hassan
Participant Code: p/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
6 Jul	Mon	Peakhurst	10.00am - 2.00pm	D
28 Sep	Mon	Fairfield	10.00am - 2.00pm	D

Teaching whole number – tactics for teachers

Course Code: led09

This hands-on workshop will inspire participants and provide some new tactics for whole number teaching. We will explore a unique dice and playing card program to provide opportunities for children to “play” with numbers and learn important basic facts. Popular computer software to develop mastery in basic skills will also be showcased.

Presenter: Samantha Hornery
Participant Code: sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
24 July	Fri	Peakhurst	9.30am - 3.30pm	E

Teaching writing skills to children with learning disabilities

Course Code: led06

The complex process of writing requires the child to vocalise a sentence, remember what they have said, hold a pencil effectively and write the sentence with correct spelling and grammar. These two sessions will consider:

- why writing is so difficult for children with learning disabilities;
- re-thinking the writing process (taking a step back to help children move forward);
- sentence construction activities for the classroom; and
- using the computer to support children’s writing.

Presenter: Veronica Hodgson, Elean Chan
Participant Code: sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
22 Oct	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

The magic of movement – play strategies for physical development

Course Code: eci06

Opportunities to move are fundamental in assisting children to play, develop and learn. Movement experiences can help children to explore, interact, communicate, and increase independence and self esteem. This workshop explores the development of movement and common movement difficulties in both typically developing children and children who may need additional support. Practical play-based strategies will be discussed.

Presenter: Frances Schembri
Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
26 Oct	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Every effort is made to ensure workshop details are accurate at the time of printing.

Learning Links reserves the right to cancel workshops and/or change presenters or venues.

The self esteem of children with learning difficulties

Course Code: led11

NEW

When a child struggles to learn their self esteem can be affected. This workshop aims to help parents and teachers understand how self-esteem is formed for these children. Ways to enhance self-esteem around learning are discussed.

Presenter: Danielle Tracey
Participant Code: sc/p

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
7 May	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00 - 8.00pm	B

Total Communication

Course Code: com01

Do you work with children who have difficulty following directions; coping with change; making choices; telling news; joining in play or communicating clearly? Total Communication is an approach that uses a variety of methods including speaking, showing objects, photos, symbols and signing to enhance children’s development. It can benefit children with additional needs and children who are developing typically. This workshop will identify specific strategies including the use of visual aids and signing. A range of resources will be shown.

Presenters: Janette Biffin, Jane Purcell, Jo Dawe, Michelle Lee, Kerri-Ann Spanko, Kylie McDonald, Lizzie Eakin

Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
23 Feb	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
6 May	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
4 Aug	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Transition to school for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Course Code: asd02

Part 1 of this workshop will:

- outline the Department of Education (DET) Early Learning Program for children transitioning to school;
- identify existing supports in DET schools for children with ASD and their families;
- discuss individualising transition programs to suit the child and family; and
- identify ways to get ready for school including the use of social stories.

Time will be allocated to discuss individual cases.

Part 2 of the workshop is practical. Participants will learn how to write and make a social story and discuss the use of visual systems and how to implement these. Please bring a recent photo of your child (or child you are working with) and the school they will attend (if known). These will be used to make resources.

Participants should attend both sessions.

Presenters: Yvonne Theiss, Kerri-Ann Spanko, Janette Biffin

Participant Code: p/ec/sc

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
26 Aug & 2 Sep	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	E

Understanding bullying and resilience

Course Code: beh06

NEW

This workshop provides professionals with an understanding of the different forms of bullying. A discussion about how to identify bullying and what proactive strategies can be implemented. It examines bullying from the perspective and experience of the victim and the perpetrator. Intervention strategies to assist children who are experiencing bullying, are outlined.

Presenter: Michelle Button

Participant Code: ec/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
26 May	Tue	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
17 Sept	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B



Understanding depression and anxiety in children and adolescents

Course Code: dep01

This workshop explores the symptoms displayed by children and adolescents with depression and/or anxiety. It examines treatment, diagnosis, causes and related risk factors. There is a focus on what parents and teachers can do to support these children.

Presenter: Michelle Button
Participant Code: p/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
24 Jun	Wed	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
2 Nov	Mon	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

Visual perception difficulties – strategies that help

Course Code: vis01

Children with visual perception difficulties may experience difficulty with letter or number reversals; writing neatly; copying from the blackboard; finding objects on a desk or in a bag; recognising letters, words or numbers; remembering what is seen; recognising the same word in different print; keeping place on a page when reading or writing and/or gross motor skills (coordinating vision with movement). This workshop discusses visual perception – what it is and how it works; problems that can occur and why; and how visual perception affects the child’s behaviour and learning.

Presenter: Nicola Mooney
Participant Code: p/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
30 Mar	Mon	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

We’ve got the numbers, but what do they mean? Interpreting IQ tests

Course Code: iqt01

Children may be referred by a school counsellor or paediatrician for a psychometric test. This presentation will explain the most commonly used tests and assessment tools, what the scores mean and the implications for education.

Presenter: Molly Tweedie
Participant Code: p/ec/sc/hp

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
11 Aug	Tues	Penshurst	6.00pm - 8.00pm	B
28 Oct	Wed	Brookvale	6.00pm - 8.00pm	B

Who wants to know about Down syndrome?

Course Code: dsy01

This is a practical yet thought provoking workshop that aims to challenge perceptions of Down syndrome. It brings the benefit of understanding and experience from both a family and professional perspective. Presenters will outline the impact of Down syndrome on children’s learning and discuss ways to support families of children who have Down syndrome. Strategies for home and early childhood settings that assist these children to reach their potential in all developmental areas will be explored.

Presenters: Frances Schembri, Siobhan Beavis
Participant Code: p/ec

Date	Day	Location	Time	Cost Code
2 Apr	Thu	Peakhurst	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
13 Aug	Thu	Miller	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

