

Webinar 27

Practice strategies for working with children with disability

7:15 pm to 8:30 pm AEST
Monday, 25th July 2022


Emerging Minds. National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health



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Emerging Minds and MHPN wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands across Australia upon which our webinar presenters and participants are located.

We wish to pay respect to the Elders past, present and future for the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia.



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Welcome to series five

This is the first webinar in the fifth series on infant and child mental health, presented by Emerging Minds and the Mental Health Professionals' Network.

Upcoming webinar in Series 5 will be:

- Paediatric Anxiety
- Working with children with higher weight
- Supporting children who have disclosed trauma
- First Nations children – family violence
- Bullying

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Learning outcomes

At the webinar's completion, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the values and strategies involved in child-centred, family and communication-focused practice to support children with disability.
- Outline the skills needed to help children with disability engage in conversations about their needs, interests and goals.
- Identify how to help children and their family develop and maintain strong and nurturing connections through family-focused approaches.
- Discuss how to help children express their hopes, values, concerns and preferences through communication-focused approaches.



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Tonight's panel



Bec Edser
Child and family partner,
SA



Dr Erin Bulluss
Clinical Psychologist, SA



Kate Headley
Speech Pathologist, NSW



**Facilitator:
Jacquie Lee**
Emerging Minds, SA



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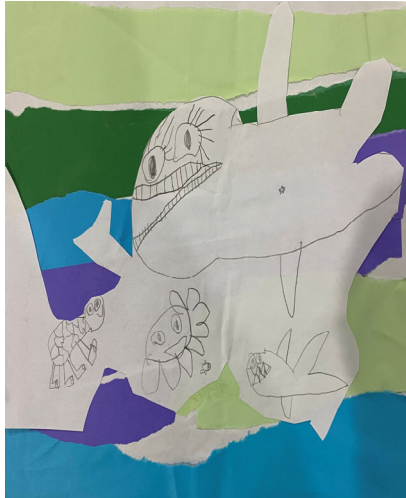
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Child and family partner's perspective

The value of finding the right supports for my child



Bec Edser



Labels and diagnosis with a deficit focus



Early intervention and access to supports

Affirming of parenting approaches



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Child and family partner's perspective



Bec Edser

Engaging children around their strengths, preferences and interests

Understanding communication needs

Passions  Connection



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Child and family partner's perspective

So, what's going to support THIS child and family?



Bec Edser



Parent as a case coordinator

- Information sharing
 - Strategies that fit
 - Current challenges that need addressing
- Team around the child



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Child and family partner's perspective

Families need compassion, understanding and acknowledgement



Bec Edser

Parent advocate for:

- Understanding behaviours and preferences
- Child and family capacity and circumstances
- Integrating strengths and interests



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Clinical Psychologist's perspective

Overall description of approach

- person-centred
- developmentally relevant
- attachment informed
- acceptance based
- affirming/non-pathologising
- Systemic

Conceptual understanding gives rise to the specific therapeutic approach/strategies



Erin Bulluss



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Clinical Psychologist's perspective

Remember developmental stage

- Individuation away from parents, increased conflict
- Peers have more influence
- Attachment theory relevant at all ages: connection is key



Erin Bulluss



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Clinical Psychologist's perspective

Guide identity formation



Erin Bulluss

- Accept disability as a part of identity, but not as whole identity
- Make sure approaches by informal and formal supports reflects this
- Be aware that the message from a lot of appointments can be “I’m broken/I need fixing”



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Clinical Psychologist's perspective

Encourage family to take stock of formal supports



Erin Bulluss

- “Are they all helpful? How?”
- Sometimes less is more, while retaining key support
- Need for support/type of support can fluctuate over time
- NDIS funding model can encourage over-servicing to secure future funding



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Clinical Psychologist's perspective

Look at sphere of influence and circles of support/systems



Erin Bulluss

- Work on defining what individuals and organisations can influence
- Accept that outside of circle of influence
- Be creative by working with all the circles of support/systems
- Consider whether switching some supports to systemic, rather than individual, could be helpful (e.g., a school-based program on inclusion/accepting diversity)



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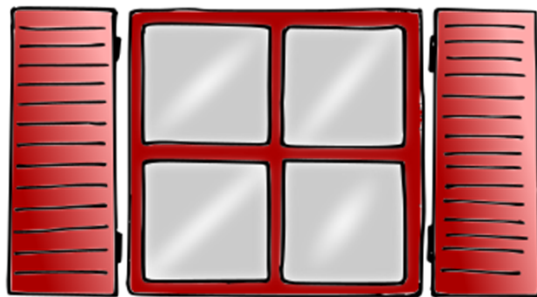
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Speech Pathologist's perspective



Kate Headley

Must relinquish the 'expert' model



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Image created from lessonpix.com

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Speech Pathologist's perspective



Kate Headley



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Skills to focus on:

- Active listening
- Collecting information
- Stating the unstated
- Reflecting child and family strengths
- Explicitly discussing collaborative work model



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Speech Pathologist's perspective



Kate Headley

Goal setting & prioritization strategies:

- The whole child/family–WHO-ICF and a parallel version of F-words (Fitness, Function, Friends, Family, Fun and Future) that 'make real' the ICF concepts
- Formally published tools, e.g:
 - Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM)
 - Individually Prioritized Problem Assessment (IPPA in AT)
 - The Family Goal Setting Tool (Disability & ASD versions and The Adolescent/Adult Goal Setting Tool – Autism QLD)
 - The Perceived Efficacy and Goal Setting System (PEGS)
- Informal/more generic strategies, e.g:
 - Visual rating scales
 - Visual 'mapping'
 - Talking Mats



Image created from lessonpix.com

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Speech Pathologist's perspective



Kate Headley



Image created from lessonpix.com

Co-design

- Intervention strategies
- Measuring progress
- Change and flexibility



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Ask a question

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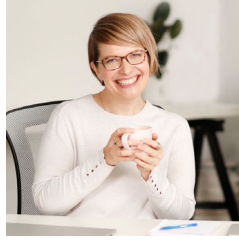


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Q&A Session



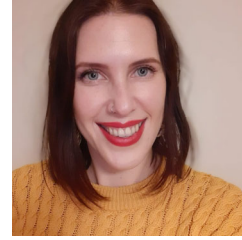
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Thank you for participating



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- Statements of Attendance for this webinar will be issued within four to six weeks.
- Each participant will be sent a link to the recording of this webinar and associated online resources within four to six weeks.



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Resources and further reading

Other supporting resources associated with this webinar can be found by clicking on the supporting resources icon.



For more information about Emerging Minds, visit www.emergingminds.com.au

Upcoming webinars in 2022:

- Paediatric Anxiety
- Working with children with higher weight

Upcoming MHPN webinars:

- Webinars on AOD, Disability and ADHD are coming soon, keep an eye out for dates/invites



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This webinar was co-produced by MHPN and Emerging Minds for the Emerging Minds: National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health (NWCCMH) project.

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Visit www.mhpn.org.au to join your local network.

Interested in starting a new network? Email: networks@mhpn.org.au and we will step you through the process, including explaining how we can provide advice, administration and other support.



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