

ECE SYMPOSIUM Workshop Choices



Saturday 12 July, 9:00am-4:30pm

Rydges, Rotorua

1. Whakamana | Empowerment

Ehara taku mana i te mana takitahi – Empowering ourselves through play
Emma Parangi



Let's feel strong and confident in our mana through connecting to the mana of te taiao – the beyond human world. In this wānanga you will be invited and guided to explore story and storytelling, learning from and about pūrākau (Māori cosmologies and histories) along the way. You will be supported to build whanaungtanga (relationships) with atua (spiritual guardians of the physical world) through experimenting, creative expression, and most importantly play. We will ground ourselves by connecting to whenua (earth), exploring taonga pūoro (singing treasures) and ngā tae uku (earth pigments). You will have the opportunity to make some of your own, and/ or play with whenua in whichever way feels resonant for you.

2. Ngā Hononga | Relationships

Rich Relationships: The Heart of Our Work
Julie Killick



At the heart of all powerful teaching and learning lies the magic of relationships, those warm, responsive, and reciprocal connections that make mokopuna feel seen, safe, and deeply valued. Ngā hononga – Relationships is one of the foundational principles of Te Whāriki, and in this uplifting workshop, we will take time to reflect on what this really means in our daily practice.

We'll begin by turning gently inward, exploring how we can deepen our relationship with ourselves through simple yet powerful mindfulness and self-compassion practices. When we are grounded, present, and kind to ourselves, we are so much more able to offer genuine connection to others.

From this place of presence, we'll then explore how we build rich, trusting relationships with the mokopuna and whānau who are new to our centres. You'll hear real-life examples of how we welcome tamariki and whānau, weaving belonging into their very first moments with us.



3. Holistic development | Kotahitanga

Rediscover the Joy of Play

Martin Putt

Step into the moment and rediscover the creative spark that makes teaching joyful—play. In this energising and light-hearted workshop, we'll explore simple improvisation activities, movement, and laughter to awaken spontaneity, imagination, and presence. Let's reconnect with play itself and one another—reminding ourselves that connection is at the heart of learning and living. Designed for all bodies, backgrounds, and beliefs, no prior experience is needed—just a willingness to join in...and play. Come as you are and leave refreshed, recharged, and reminded of why play matters—for children, and for you.



4. Whānau Tangata | Family and Community

Deepening Connections: Embracing Whānau and Community in Practice

Roberta Skeoch

This workshop will explore how to truly partner with families and communities, recognising their vital role in the learning and development of mokopuna

We'll dive into practical strategies for:

- Building strong, respectful relationships with diverse families.
- Celebrating and integrating children's unique cultural, social, and linguistic backgrounds.
- Actively engaging with the wider community to enrich learning experiences.
- Facilitating smooth and supportive transitions for children and their whānau.

Join us to empower children's holistic development by strengthening the essential learning partnerships between kaiako, families, and communities.

Workshops will be repeated over two sessions. Please select **TWO** workshops, plus a back-up choice, in case your first choices are full. Use the online link sent to the ELP website.

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