Megan Mitchell, our National Children’s Commissioner, sees early childhood settings as ideal places for young children to begin their learning about rights and respect. The recently launched ‘Building Belonging’ kit will support educators to achieve this. Two further articles in this edition, Early education and care—25 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and What rights do young children have in research? will provide further thinking, reflection and action.

In addition, when we read the articles on a whole-team approach to Reconciliation by Melinda Miller, establishing cultural connections by Meni Tsambouniaris, and connecting to place by Kaarin Wilkinson, we understand how closely these are aligned to rights education not only for the children we teach but for our own knowledge and understandings. The recently republished Dreaming stories by Jenni Connor and Geraldine Atkinson gives us concrete materials to engage with and support children’s and families’ understandings of Australia’s first peoples.

Anthony Semann’s article on breaking down the myths of practice is timely as many educators are still struggling with documentation—how much, how often etc. The contribution by Cathie Coles on high expectations and equity will support educators to reflect on what it means and looks like in practice as will Rebecca Wells’s piece Just ask them—Empowering students to direct their own learning.

Children’s spirituality by Pam Linke asks us to think about how this is and can be included in our programs for young children. All of these articles and more in this edition will be very useful for individual educators, or more broadly as part of team reflections, as one year ends and teams work together to make changes into the new year.

This edition continues with the series of articles by Daniel Donahoo, a consultant on the intersection of play, technology and narrative, with the aptly named How a tablet found its way. Nicola Yelland and Caja Gilbert describe a project they have been involved in that supports children’s creativity using tablets alongside more traditionally used materials and supporting the acquisition of twenty-first century skills.

The importance of teaching social and emotional skills in early childhood is highlighted in an article by Pam Linke and Dr Kate Williams outlines how rhythm and movement can help children self-regulate.

These are just some of the articles—keep reading for more, including our usual book and app reviews. Something for everyone!

Ensure this edition of Every Child is added into your holiday reading pile and come back next year refreshed and inspired to think about new possibilities …’

With the fabulous ECA Conference and Melbourne Cup now over, we are on the downhill run and no doubt looking forward to the holiday season. This issue we hope will energise and inspire you to continue the great work you do each and every day, for and on behalf of young children.

LEARNING ABOUT RIGHTS AND RESPECT

Judy Radich
Co-Editor