Welcome to this edition of Every Child—the third for this year.

Communication and its many forms act as an undercurrent in this edition, weaving together a number of thoughts, ideas and perspectives. Anne Stonehouse sets the tone in her Guest Statement, where she rightly tells us that communication is more complex and broader than 500 words. Communicating what we know, understand and believe in for young children is advocacy—the heart of ECA’s work. As advocates for young children we all have a responsibility. Now with a change in Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and a new Education Minister, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, we have a great opportunity to communicate what the sector needs to support and enhance the National Quality Agenda—continuity of funding for the National Quality Framework, adequate funding for our most vulnerable children, opportunities for two years of prior to school early education for all children, improved wages and conditions for educators and teachers, and more.

Fay Hadley, chair of ECA’s Publications Advisory Committee, shares with readers her long journey of advocacy, from her early days as a student and beginning teacher, and now in her role as Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University.

Discussion, debate and disagreement are all part of being effective communicators and educators. This was evident in the discussion about the children’s picture book, Sorry Sorry by Anne Kerr, which began at the ECA Reconciliation Symposium in Western Australia in May this year. Some of the process and deliberations are outlined by ECA on pages 8–9. What do you think?

Carmel Richardson reminds us that “positive relationships and good communication enables all sorts of exchanges” in her article on communicating family diversity and celebrations. The director of Paddington Children’s Centre, Natalie Cordukes, shares the service’s inspiring journey on embedding Aboriginal perspectives through community engagement. She says “it has been an adventure of connecting, learning and listening”—all significant in the art of communication.

The ‘Bush Block’ that lies adjacent to an early learning centre in South Australia has been instrumental in supporting educators in communication, and the connection between taking time and listening has been transformative and rewarding. Rod Soper, Chief Researcher from the Playing with Gratitude Project, shares his personal and professional transformation and invites readers to become a part of the project.

The long awaited ECA Box of provocations comes highly recommended by experts across the field. This demonstrates their versatility and their capacity to support educators to discuss, debate and think critically about how and what they provide. These resources, used well, will support improved practices and hopefully improve outcomes for children.

There are many more articles to support your work and interest in young children and families. These include ‘Ready or not? Supporting high-quality programs for three-year-olds’; ‘Transition to school: A primary perspective’; Trauma Informed Practice; the potential of the local library; ‘Personal storying for cultural integrity’; father-inclusive practice; the collaborative practice within the Victorian Maternal and Child Health practice and our top picks from the ECA shop, information and events. Something for everyone!

Congratulations to Marilyn Fleer on receiving this prestigious award: The Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship for the humanities, arts and social science disciplines—a first for an early childhood focused researcher.

If you attended the 2018 ECA National Conference, I trust you returned invigorated and enthusiastic for the possibilities in your work in early childhood. Attending conferences such as these comes with great professional responsibility—a responsibility to our employers and colleagues to share the information we have learned and critically reflect on the possible impact of this on the children and families we work with. I also hope it has provided a renewed commitment to ECA and to the new and renewed friendships with colleagues from across the country.

Judy Radich
Every Child Co-editor