

Ideas for Parent Conference Kate Annells

The parents had different interpretations for the reason and focus of a conference. And parents ranged in ages from pre-school to high school and from mainstream to special classes/unit? We would need to find a focus.

I mentioned the great collaboration I have with our current teacher because he went to a day of PD by Jane Farrall development, along with me, and that has helped our ongoing discussions about how to best teach my son. I suggested conference speakers could be

- Dr Bob Jackson. Focus is on inclusion research and examples of inclusion.
- Jane Farrall. Works with non-verbal children (using AAC) to become literate. Opened my mind to possibilities.
- Loren Swancutt. Recognised for high school inclusion resources

Teachers want very practical and usable resources, rather than just ideological, policy level talk.

Other suggestions from group members included:

- Marc Le Messurier - growth mindset, social skills,
- Neuroplasticity, "brain training", but would need to be evidence based. – receive certificate that both parent and teacher attended. (and have tools now)
Norway: physical and play based learning. outdoors for improving development. Nature play like "WILD IMAGINATION" may attract a lot of interest? Perhaps a play therapist – look at learning styles?
- Developmental Educator, to speak on holistic education. (for all kids, not just disability)
- AEIOU.
- ASPECT – research?
- HIPPIY – designed to help parents understand that learning can be fun. (age kindy and prep).
- Genevieve Jereb O.T– "Traffic Jam in my Brain". Sensory Strategies.
- Mobility/ Conductive Ed? Cottee
- Interoception.
- Emma Goodall DECD
- Joanne Cregan (two sons ASD with good outcomes)
- One parent wanted DECD to explain what programs they are using in schools with our kids.
- One wanted to know how much funding and have more transparency, (we explained that these forums have been transparent about funding levels)
- The Reading Doctor? Better ways to teach reading. Help for DYSLEXIA. Not "Reading Recovery"
- Kidman Park, a good case study school?

Remaining queries:

Do we have a key speaker or two streams of speaker?

Do we want to be disability specific, or focus on all students and ideas applicable to all classrooms?

How do we avoid too much of an autism focus for all those who do not fit the autism label or even feel that it is sometimes thrust upon them too quickly (i.e. you have a disability= you must want a weighted blanket)

Careful not to be an advertisement "getting exposure for my business".

Where: - the Parks?

When: PIE week, end of Aug? Disability focus on the Friday of Education week?. The challenge will be getting a time that suits parents with childcare, workdays, and teacher or SSO's willingness to attend? If the SSO and parent come, who has the child in their care?