

# KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

## KOALA JOEYS IN LOGAN

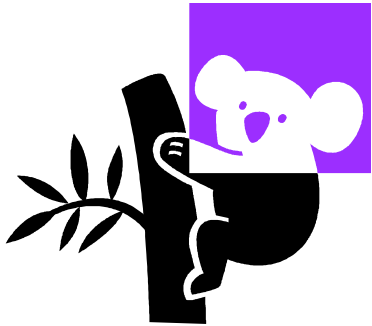
A universal, free, community, interactive oral language  
program for families with children under school age

# PRESENTER

**Gwen Rayner**

Cert Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip (Cur) Arts in Early Childhood

**BUTTERFLY WINGS PROGRAM TRAINER AND FACILITATOR**



## EMAILS

[gwen@butterflywingswingsearlyyearsconsultancy.com.au](mailto:gwen@butterflywingswingsearlyyearsconsultancy.com.au)

**WEBSITE:** [www.butterflywingsearlyyearsconsultancy.com.au](http://www.butterflywingsearlyyearsconsultancy.com.au)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where we meet today.

We also pay respects to all elders past, present and future.

Here is the land

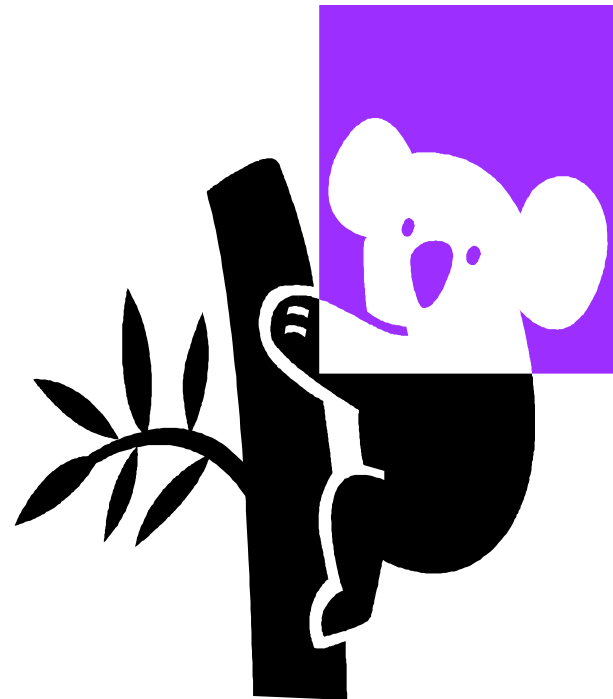
And here is the sky

Here are my friends

And here am I



I'M A KOALA JOEY!



# A GOOD START

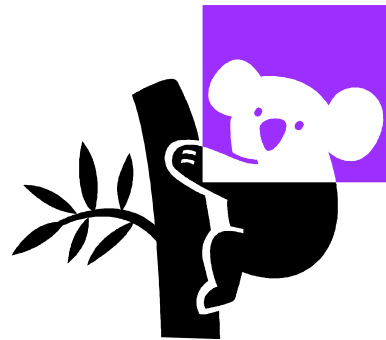
## THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A COMMUNITY

*“Where communities have relatively easy access to high quality early childhood and effective parenting programs, children are generally more ready to enter school at school entry age”.*

Janus & Offord 2000

*“High quality parenting programs and early intervention can significantly improve children’s life chances at an individual, as well as at a community level”*

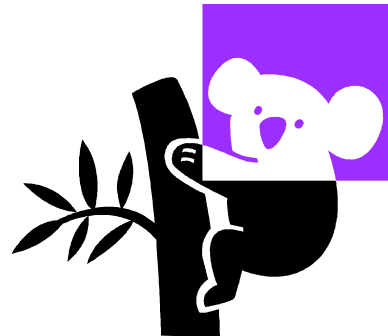
Watson 2005



## WHAT ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS?

The **KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM** is modelled on the evidence based **BUTTERFLY WINGS PROGRAM** which is the only parenting program recognised by the Linking Schools and the Early Years Project as National Good Practice [http://www.rch.org.au/lsey/sharing.cfm?doc\\_id=14442](http://www.rch.org.au/lsey/sharing.cfm?doc_id=14442)

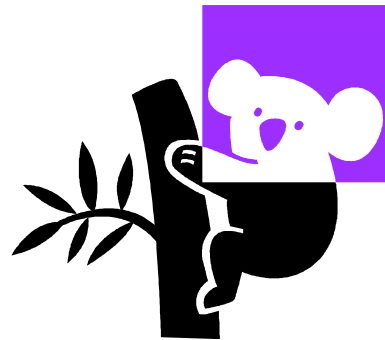
The **KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM** – specifically created to be delivered in schools – includes the “Engaging Families in the Early Childhood Development Story” Neuroscience and Early Child Development Key Messages and reflects the conceptual foundations of Early Childhood Development.  
[http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/ECD\\_Story-Neuroscience\\_and\\_early\\_childhood\\_dev.pdf](http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/_resources/ECD_Story-Neuroscience_and_early_childhood_dev.pdf)



## WHAT ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS?

The **KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM** is a universal program – non-discriminatory, non-targeted. All parents and carers with their children – from bump to big school - are eligible to attend the **KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM** long term.

The **KOALA JOEY'S FAMILY PROGRAM** is modelled on the Butterfly Wings Program which is identified by an ARACY research paper as a school readiness program that encourages parents to talk, sing, chant rhymes, tell stories and read to their children so that they are ready for school. Parents are provided with appropriate interactive, early literacy skills to help and support their own children in their own home.

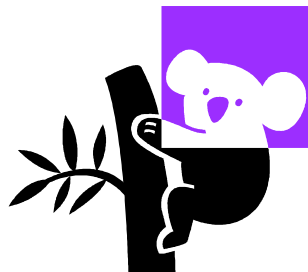


# WHAT ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS?

**KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAMS** focus on empowering parents and carers to use nursery rhymes, songs, dance, movement and stories as a tool to form secure attachments.

Early years brain development, emotional and social development, child development knowledge, early literacy and early numeracy information is shared during the program.

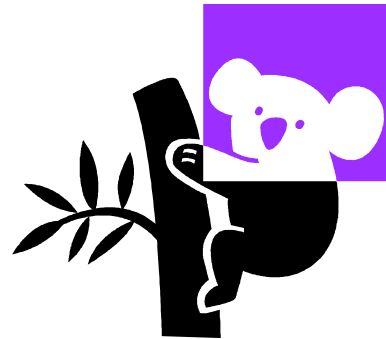
Parents gain skills in a fun, interactive and supportive environment.





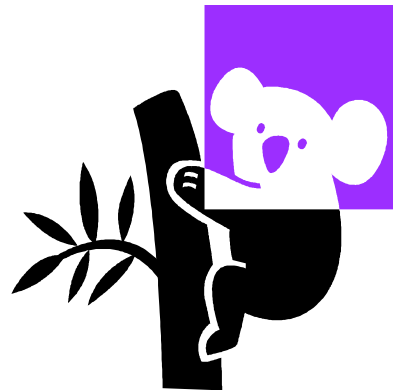
# WHAT ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS?

The Koala Joeys Program includes storytelling and opportunities for parents to talk and discuss problems/issues with the Koala Joeys Program Facilitator and other members of the school community. A series of “PARENTING” helpful hints, apps & websites are provided each week for parents to take home.



# WHAT ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS?

The Koala Joeys Program is a fun, interactive, capacity building Parenting Education program to help parents develop an understanding of early literacy, early numeracy, emotional and social skills, gross and fine motor development and the importance of play and laughter for learning in the early years.

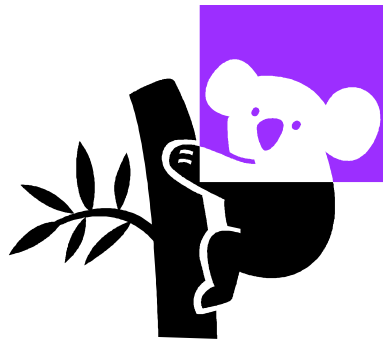


# DISPLAY AT EAGLEBY KOALA JOEYS PROGRAM



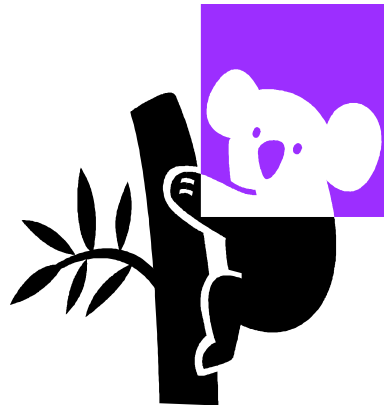
## HOW ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS ORGANISED?

- ◉ The Koala Joeys Program is delivered each term for parents and carers with their pre-school children from the local school community
- ◉ The Koala Joeys Program is a one hour program delivered once a week in a school or other environment for eight weeks per school term.
- ◉ Parents and carers with their pre-school children in the local community are invited to attend the Koala Joeys Family Program



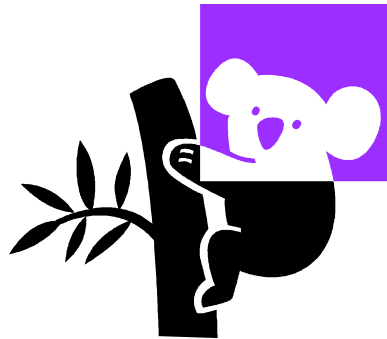
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- ◉ Fifteen to twenty families can register for the Koala Joeys Program and they can attend for one or more years.
- ◉ At least one of the Koala Joeys Program Facilitators should be a registered teacher/health worker/community worker who has attended a two day Koala Joeys Program Facilitators Training Workshop. Support facilitators can be teacher aides, parents, members of the community, grandparents or retired teachers. These support facilitators will be encouraged to attend the two day Koala Joeys Program Training.



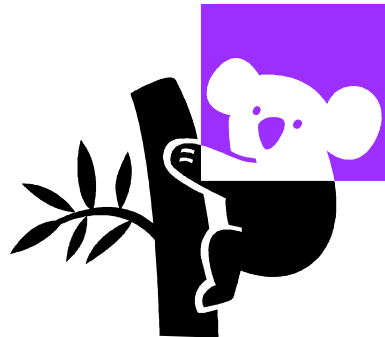
## HOW ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS ORGANISED?

- ◉ If the program is delivered in a school older students may be invited to be co-facilitators on a roster
- ◉ Families will be invited to visit various areas of the school and participate in some different activities eg Families borrowing books from the school library, playing on the school early years playground.
- ◉ The Koala Joeys Program should be universally available to all families in the community.



## HOW ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS ORGANISED?

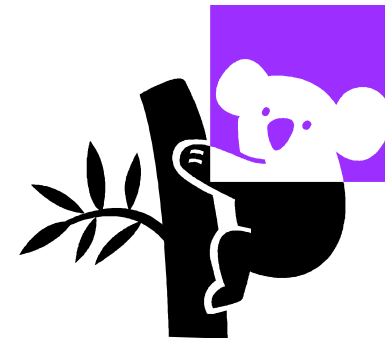
- Schools can choose to deliver the Koala Joeys Program in or out of school hours. Schools might have to offer more than one program per week depending on community interest. There are two programs being delivered at Windaroo State School and maybe four by the end of 2015.
- Parent Information Workshops can complement the Koala Joeys Program eg “Helping Children Learn to Read” addressing the needs and requests of the Parent Community.



## HOW ARE THE KOALA JOEYS PROGRAMS ORGANISED?

If the program is delivered in a school the school administration – deputies, principals, specialist teachers and other school personnel would be invited to attend the Koala Joeys program on a regular basis – forming relationships and breaking down barriers between the school and the community and also encouraging parents to become more involved in school life in the future.

Various community agencies and organisations can also be invited to visit the Koala Joeys program – Child Health Nurses, Nutritionists, Speech Therapists, Oral Health – to provide advice and information after the program.



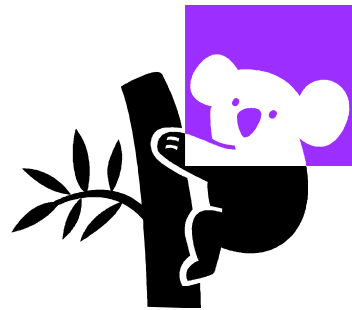


# EAGLEBY STATE SCHOOL - BUBBLE PLAY AFTER THE PROGRAM



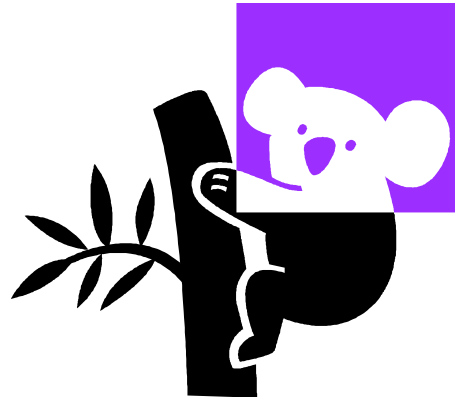
# WHAT HAPPENS AT A KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM - FROM BUMP TO BIG SCHOOL?

- ◉ There are no special resources needed for the Koala Joeys Program. The only resource used is the human voice (no matter how tuneful). This empowers parents to understand that they are their child's best mentor and supporter and they do not require expensive toys, equipment or books to support their child's development.
- ◉ Songs, rhymes and dances will be introduced that relate to the AEDC and the 11 Neuroscience Key Messages and includes Early Literacy, Early Numeracy, Body Awareness, Social Interactions, Fine and Gross Motor Development, Routines and Rituals, Laughter and Learning, Gentle Touching and Oral Communication.



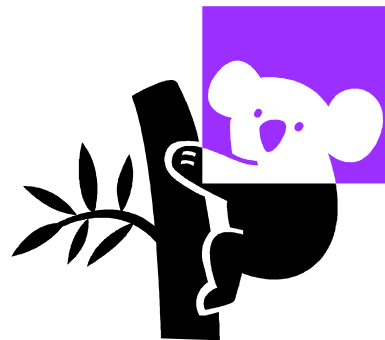
## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM - FROM BUMP TO BIG SCHOOL FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

- ◉ Parents and children will become a member of a supportive, caring community of learners.
- ◉ Parents will gain improved self esteem in their parenting role and be more aware of how they can support their child before they go to school.



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM - FROM BUMP TO BIG SCHOOL FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

Parents will understand that a child's intellectual awakening and growth takes place in playful environments, through spontaneous learning opportunities and the normal adult-child interactions that occur in everyday purposeful activities.



# REFERENCES

- ◉ **MCEECDYA** (2010) Engaging Families in the Early Childhood Development Story
- ◉ **Janus & Offord** (2000) School Readiness to Learn Project in Canada LA California
- ◉ **McCain & Mustard** (1999) Reversing the Real Brain Drain – Early Years Study Children’s Secretariat Toronto Canada.
- ◉ **Watson Dr Johanna** (2005) School Readiness NSW Parenting Centre DOCS
- ◉ **Hirsh-Pasek & Golinkoff** (2004) Einstein never used flash cards – how our children really learn - US