



To partner with UOW and world-leading scholars in a ground breaking conference on early childhood development issues

On behalf of the University of W<mark>ollo</mark>ngong's Early Start[™] Initiative, I warmly invite you to consider sponsoring the *Inaugural Early Start[™] Conference* this September in Wollongong, Australia.

The Early Start™ Conference is a multidisciplinary conference that will celebrate the opening of the world-first \$44m Early Start™ research, teaching and community engagement hub at the University of Wollongong. The conference theme nicely articulates the Early Start™ mission: "Improving Children's Lives: translating research for practice, policy and community". Early Start™ will radically transform educational, health, social outcomes in regional, rural and remote communities by providing a core facility at the University of Wollongong to connect with 41 initial Early Start™ Engagement Centres across NSW and the ACT.

The inaugural Early Start™ Conference will provide opportunities for innovative interdisciplinary research findings to be shared and will encourage a dialogue around reframing policy and practice in areas such as school readiness, physical activity and health, information and communications technology, literacy and numeracy, social inclusion and Aboriginal education.

With an extremely impressive line-up of internationally respected early childhood speakers, the conference will attract academics from around the globe, and politicians, senior bureaucrats, government officials and practitioners from around Australia and Oceania. To give a sense of the international interest in this Australian conference, listed below are the confirmed invited speakers:

Professor Catherine Snow, Harvard University, USA

Keynote speaker and one of the world's foremost education scholars for over three decades.

Professor Edward Melhuish, Oxford University, UK

Leading childhood psychology scholar and adviser to the OECD on childhood development issues.

Professor Iram Siraj, University College London, UK

Internationally respected scholar on early childhood education.

Professor Michael Wald, Stanford University, USA

Leading scholarly authority on youth and children's legal issues.

Professor Dianne Ward, University of North Carolina, USA

Internationally respected scholar on youth and children's' physical health issues.

Professor Fred Paas, Erasmus University, Netherlands

Internationally respected for his work on cognitive load theory.

The conference will attract up to 350 delegates from around the world and interstate, and we are seeking the engagement of strategic partners who see the value of leveraging off a high profile national and international event. Needless to say, it would indeed be a befitting event for government and industry partners to participate in and support.

I truly hope we can welcome your organisation as a key partner.

Sincerely yours,

am

Professor Tony Okley
Director, Early Start™ Research Institute
Early Start™ Conference Chair

ABOUT EARLY START™

Early Start[™] is a major social change initiative of the University of Wollongong and its strategic partners. It brings communities and practioners together with our academics from across many disciplines including education, psychology, public health, social work, human geography and the applied social sciences in strategic collaboration for teaching, research and community engagement. Each arm of Early Start[™] helps and facilitates the others, creating an interdisciplinary network that works together towards a common goal of driving positive social change.

Early Start™ Facility

The Early Start™ building is a \$44M teaching, research and community engagement facility that will produce a new generation of graduates to work with children (0-12 years), young people, their families and communities. Early Start™ is designed to facilitate educational, health and social outcomes in regional, rural and remote communities. Located on the main campus in Wollongong, the Early Start™ Facility incorporates innovative design principles that encourage engagement and collaboration in teaching, learning and research. Areas that integrate face-to-face experiences with an online and virtual learning environment will provide a medium for enriching student access and engagement, particularly for those who aspire to higher education in regional, rural and remote areas. Research facilities are designed to enhance collaboration while virtual access will help to bridge the barriers of distance.

Early Start™ Discovery Space

A hands-on, creative learning venue, the Early Start™ Discovery Space is an exciting new destination, specifically designed for children from birth to 12 years and their accompanying families, carers, educators and teachers. The Discovery Space offers more than a dozen interactive playful experiences that inspire imagination and ignite a love of learning. Based on strongly grounded evidence that play in integral to children's learning and development, The Early Start™ Discovery Space will act as a partner for families, early childhood centres and schools, by enhancing the value that children gain through play-based experiences.

Early Start™ Engagement Centres

41 Early Start™ Engagement Centres (ESECs) form a network of early childhood and family services predominantly situated in areas of recognised disadvantage across NSW and the ACT. These centres provide portals into their communities and will facilitate multidirectional interactions, grounding teaching and research in real life settings and providing authentic learning opportunities for students and researchers across many disciplines.



[Above: Early Start™ Facility]

OUR VISION

To give children the best possible start in life

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To create resources, opportunities, connections and partnerships that drive positive social change by enhancing the experiences of children, their families, and the community.

OUR VALUES

Evidence based impact:

We believe in capturing real-time research outcomes and translating them into real-world applications

Creative inspiration:

We encourage creativity in everything we do because it breaks down barriers and encourages positive risk taking

Empowered choices:

We want to build people's confidence and self-expression to help them make informed decisions that shape their futures in positive ways

Multi-directional connectivity:

We place the highest value on dynamic relationships that work in a myriad of directions

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This conference will address the challenges that exist in policy and practice for children, families and educators by exploring current approaches to research in the early years of life and proposing strategies for the future that will both inform and improve work in the field. Target audience: researchers with a focus on investment in young children from the perspectives of education, health, law, psychology, sociology, economics, policy, indigenous affairs, social work and other related areas as well as practitioners and policy specialists.

CONFERENCE THEME

Improving Children's Lives: Translating Research For Practice, Policy And Community

At the core of the Early Start[™] mission is the goal of improving children's lives. Its research efforts are founded on a commitment to bringing together academics from across discipline boundaries and working closely with government and the sector to improve early childhood policy and practice.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The City of Wollongong is located just 80km south of Sydney on a spectacular stretch of the southern New South Wales coast. Wollongong's natural environment includes some of the most pristine beaches in Australia and the escarpment to the west offers a great network of walking trails and dazzling views of the coastline. Wollongong is the 10th largest city in Australia and is well known for its tourism and steel industries.

UOW has a real buzz about it that's noticeable as soon as you step onto campus. It's a great place to be, with an emphasis on connecting bright minds with the best possible insights and research - to encourage initiative, creativity and performance so that as a community we can proactively shape the world we live in.

Our campus has everything you could wish for: World class facilities, cutting edge research, a renowned library, a state-of-the-art recreation and aquatic centre, business services, entertainment facilities and so much more. It's also home to dozens of native Illawarra Flame Trees whose bright red flowers are featured on our coat of arms. A superb walking and cycling environment both on and off campus adds to this inspiring work setting.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Pre-Conference Workshops - 1pm to 5pm

Workshop 1: Supporting Intentional and Relational Pedagogy in Early Childhood Settings Prof. Iram Siraj, UCL Institute of Education and University of Wollongong
Iram will introduce how the SSTEW (Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being) scale was developed, what it measures and how it can be used by practitioners to improve high quality interactions, children's behaviour and create a strong social emotional climate. The session will be illustrated with examples of practice from high quality settings.

Workshop 2: How to self-assess the nutrition and physical activity environments in early childhood education and care services, Prof. Dianne Ward, University of North Carolina This workshop will show educators how to conduct a self-assessment of the nutrition, physical activity, outdoor play, and screen time in their service using the NAP SACC (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment in Child Care) instruments. Dianne will also work with educators on how to analyse the data and make changes based on the results to enhance the nutrition and physical activity environments in their service.

Conference Opening and Keynote Speaker

5:30pm Official Conference Opening & Welcome to Country

6:00pm Keynote Speaker: Professor Catherine Snow, Harvard University

Catherine Snow is the Patricia Albjerg Graham Professor of Education at Harvard. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from McGill University in 1971, and subsequently worked for several years at the Department of General Linguistics at the University of Amsterdam. Since 1979 she has been on the faculty at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, teaching and conducting research on topics related to language and literacy development, primarily among children placed at educational risk by poverty and/or language minority status. Snow chaired the National Academy of Sciences Committees on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children and on Assessment of Young Children, as well as the Carnegie Corporation's Advisory Council on Adolescent Literacy. Most recently she has been working with the Strategic Education Research Partnership to evaluate the effectiveness of discussion-based curricula in promoting middle-grades students' literacy outcomes. She is Visiting Professor at the University of Oslo, University of Johannesburg, and East China Normal University, appointments that are enabling her to study early childhood education from a comparative perspective.

7:00pm Welcome Reception

Relax and unwind at the Welcome Reception in the mezzanine level of the new \$44m Early Start™ facility. Mingle with fellow delegates and VIP guests and enjoy a tour of the new Early Start™ Discovery Space

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

9:00am Invited Speaker: Professor Iram Siraj, OBE (UCL)

As Professor of Education at University College London, Institute of Education, and a visiting professor at the University of Wollongong, Iram's recent research projects have included the major UK Department of Children, Schools and Families 17-year study on Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education (EPPSE 3-16, 1997-2014) and the influential Researching Effective Pedagogy in the Early Years project (REPEY). She has led longitudinal studies/RCTs as a principal investigator in a number of countries including the UK, Australia and Ireland. She has always been particularly interested in undertaking research which investigates disadvantage and gives children and families from these backgrounds a better start. She is a specialist, early years advisor to governments and ministers in the UK and overseas. She has published widely and been a specialist adviser to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education. Recently she undertook a review of the Implementation of the Foundation Phase for the Welsh Govt. and is currently reviewing the early years workforce for the Scottish Govt. She was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Years honours list in January 2015 for her services to early education.

10:00am Panel Discussion

11:30am Social Inclusion Plenary Session

1:00pm Lunch & Tours of Early Start™ Facility

2:00pm Invited speaker: Professor Michael Wald (Stanford University)

Michael is the Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law, Emeritus, at Stanford University. He joined the faculty in 1967. His teaching and research focuses on public policy towards children and families. He also had appointments (by courtesy) in the School of Education and the Public Policy Program and served as Director of the Stanford Center on Child, Youth, and their Families. Professor Wald has extensive experience designing and implementing public policy related to parents and children, including holding a number of government positions at the federal, state, and local levels connected to social services for children and families, and has helped author legislation related to child welfare at the federal and state levels. He has also been invited to serve on a number of commissions charged with developing research-based recommendations for improving the well being of children and families, including the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Welfare of Children, the Board of Directors Chapin Hall Children's Center, University of Chicago, and the Carnegie Foundation's Commission on Children 0-3. He is currently a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Supporting the Parents of Young Children. Wald has published extensively on issues related to state regulation of, and involvement with, children and families.

3:00pm Social Inclusion Plenary Session

4:00pm Afternoon tea

4:30pm Invited Speaker: Professor Edward Melhuish (Oxford)

Edward Melhuish is a professor at the University of Oxford, and Birkbeck, University of London, and a visiting professor at the University of Wollongong. He was involved with the National Evaluation of Sure Start, the Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education (EPPSE) project and the Effective Pre-school Provision in Northern Ireland (EPPNI) project and is currently undertaking studies in Norway, European community, UK, and Australia. His research influenced the 1989 Children Act, the 2005 Children Act, 2006 Childcare Bill and policy on childcare, early education, child poverty and parental support in the UK and other countries. He has served as an expert witness to several House of Commons Select Committees, and been a scientific advisor to research councils and governments in Norway, Finland, Portugal, South Korea, Chile, Australia, and Canada. He also is a consultant to the European Commission, OECD and WHO.

7:00pm Conference Dinner: Dinner Address - Professor Marc de Rosnay

Marc de Rosnay is the current Professor & Academic Head of Early Start™ at the University of Wollongong. In this role, Marc is leading transformational initiatives between the University and the community with the goal of improving educational and social opportunities for young children in regional, rural and remote contexts. Between 2003 and 2006 Marc was awarded a prestigious College Fellowship (Churchill College, University of Cambridge) in recognition of his original work on emotion understanding in infancy and early childhood. In 2006 he moved to the School of Psychology, University of Sydney, where he held and Australian Research Council (ARC) Postdoctoral Fellowship between 2007 and 2010. Marc joined Early Start™ in 2014 because of his belief that early intervention provides the single best mechanism to improve children's lives. Marc's own research focuses on social and emotional development in the early years, and the ways in which children's growing understanding of the world (i.e., cognitive development) affects their experience; both social and emotional. Marc is widely published in leading international journals and has attracted over \$1.5m of competitive research funding since graduating with his doctorate from the University of Oxford in 2003. In addition to his scholarly outputs, Marc has worked consistently to communicate research and knowledge about early childhood and development in the public forum. He has taken a leading scientific role in various documentaries (including the Life at series on ABC television), contributes regularly to the print media, and has had a fortnightly radio slot on ABC702 since 2012.



WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

9:00am Invited Speaker: Professor Dianne Ward (University of North Carolina)

Dianne Ward is Professor of Nutrition in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on preventing childhood obesity through home, school, and community interventions that promote healthy eating and regular physical activity in children and families. Dr. Ward led the team that developed the highly regarded policy and environmental intervention for child care, NAP SACC (The Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care). The second generation of NAP SACC, called GoNAPSACC, includes an updated self-assessment for centers and family child care homes, and an online, interactive version of the original program. Dr. Ward is co-directing a National Institute of Health-funded project to test a three-component intervention designed to increase healthy nutrition and regular physical activity in children enrolled in family child care homes (KEYS to a Healthy Family Child Care Home). Her other NIH projects include Caring and Reaching for Health, a worksite intervention for child care workers, and a social marketing intervention for child care centers (Our Year of Healthy Living). Dr. Ward is very active in leadership positions among early care and education researchers including the ECE workgroup sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the ECE Special Interest Group of the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity.

10:00am Morning tea

10:30am Cognitive Development Plenary Session

11:30am Panel Discussion

12:30pm Lunch & Tours of Early Start™ Facility

1:30pm Invited Speaker: Professor Fred Paas (Erasmus University)

Fred Paas is professor of educational psychology and chair of the educational and developmental psychology program at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands, and professorial fellow at the Early Start™ Research Institute of the University of Wollongong. He holds a Master in human movement sciences from Maastricht University and a PhD in instructional technology from Twente University in the Netherlands. Professor Paas was one of the pioneers in the field of educational psychology in the early 1990's when he started to apply cognitive load theory principles to the design of instructions, multimedia and training of complex cognitive skills. His research focuses on the design of effective and efficient learning environments by applying current multidisciplinary scientific knowledge about the human cognitive system and covers a wide spectrum of areas from education to psychology and cognitive science. His ground-breaking work on measurement techniques for cognitive load, on instructional efficiency and uncovering the variability effect, the cognitive aging effect, the human movement effect, and the collective working memory effect not only extended the existing instructional theories, it also provided a framework for understanding a range of learning phenomena in different educational domains. His current research focus is on the the effects of human movement on learning and performance of young children.

2:30pm Cognitive Development Plenary Session

3:30pm Afternoon tea

4:00pm Invited Speaker: Professor Susan Danby (QUT)

Susan Danby is Professor in Early Childhood Education at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), and Program Leader of the Health, Wellbeing and Happiness program within the QUT Children and Youth Research Centre in Brisbane, Australia. Her research explores the everyday social and interactional practices of children, showing their complex and competent work as they build their social worlds within school settings, homes and communities. She has published in the areas of qualitative research, helpline interaction, home and classroom interaction, early childhood pedagogy, and doctoral education. She is currently an Australian Research Council Future Fellow investigating young children's everyday use of mobile technologies in home and school contexts.

5.30pm Conference close

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

The Early Start™ Conference Committee will ensure that your investment provides direct and indirect value for your organisation.

Benefits include:

- exposure of your brand through extensive event promotion over 5 months leading up to the event
- complimentary registrations and tickets
 enable your own staff to participate in
 the conference—a valuable professional
 development opportunity for anyone working in
 or with the early childhood sector
- the opportunity to engage and communicate with decision-makers in the early childhood sector (conference delegates include CEOs, Senior Managers and Senior Practitioners)
- brand association—you will be associated with a well renowned event in the early childhood education and care sector and with Early Start™
- brand and product awareness through:
 - clever use of your exhibition booth (included in several packages)
 - naming rights of certain event aspects (included in some packages)
- differentiating your organisation by taking up one of the exclusive sponsorship options

MAJOR SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS:

Platinum Sponsor Package \$20,000

Gold Sponsor Package \$12,000

Silver Sponsor Package \$7,000

International Keynote Sponsor \$10,000



Working with our sponsors

We will ensure that all sponsors receive the appropriate benefit for their support of the conference.

Prospective sponsors should assess the opportunities suggested in the following pages.

Please contact the Conference Coordinator, Sarah Andrews, to discuss the best package for you.

We are also able to create a customised sponsor and exhibitor package, tailored to your specific needs.

For further information about the conference contact:

Sarah Andrews Conference Coordinator sarahand@uow.edu.au OR, (02) 4221 4387

OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS:

International Invited Speaker Sponsor \$5,000

Workshop Sponsor \$5,000

Conference Dinner Sponsor \$5,000

Welcome Reception Sponsor \$3,000

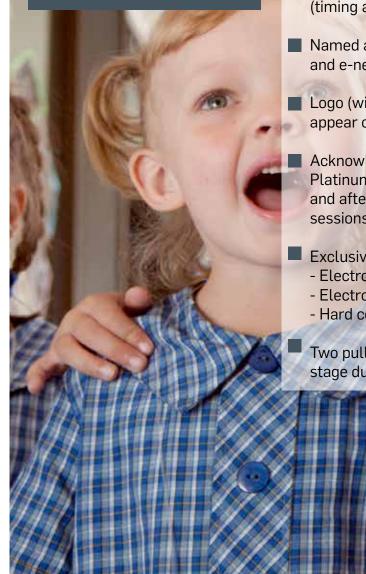
PLATINUM PACKAGE

\$20,000 (ONE ONLY)

The Platinum Package is an exclusive opportunity to partner with Early StartTM and UOW and gain the maximum benefits from sponsorship of this conference.

The Platinum Sponsor will have high brand exposure throughout the conference as well as opportunities to communicate with delegates before, during and after the event.

- Organisation name and logo prominent on all conference promotional material, publications (electronic and hard copy) and any merchandise approved by the Conference Committee
- 7 complimentary full conference registrations (including Welcome Reception)
- 7 complimentary conference dinner tickets
- Formal acknowledgement as the major event sponsor during the opening and closing sessions of the conference
- Organisation spokesperson will have the opportunity to address conference delegates during the Welcome Reception
- Naming rights for a plenary session during the conference (timing and topic to be negotiated)
- Named as the Platinum Sponsor in the Conference Program and e-newsletters provided to all delegates
- Logo (with hyperlink to website) and a 250 word paragraph can appear on the conference website
- Acknowledgement on slide presentations template as Platinum Sponsor (name and logo will appear on screen before and after presentations in both invited speaker and concurrent sessions)
- **Exclusive access to the conference delegate contact list:**
 - Electronic copy of delegate list after the conference
 - Electronic delegate list four weeks prior to event
 - Hard copy list onsite at the event (name, organisation, state).
- Two pull-up banners (sponsor supplied) to be displayed on stage during the invited speaker sessions



GOLD PACKAGE

\$12,000 (TWO ONLY)

The Gold Package is tailored for sponsors seeking a substantial engagement with pracitioners, government agencies, politicians working with the early childhood sector, and seeking strong brand association with innovation in early childhood development methods and practices.

Gold sponsors will benefit from high level exposure throughout the conference.

- Organisation name and logo on all conference promotional material, publications (electronic and hard copy) and any merchandise approved by the Conference Committee
- 4 complimentary full conference registrations (including Welcome Reception)
- 4 complimentary conference dinner tickets
- Formal acknowledgement as the major event sponsor during the opening and closing sessions of the conference
- Naming rights for a plenary session during the conference (timing and topic to be negotiated)
- Named as the Gold Sponsor in the Conference Program and e-newsletters provided to all delegates
- Logo (with hyperlink to website) on the conference website
- Acknowledgement on slide presentations template as Gold Sponsor (name and logo will appear on screen before and after presentations in both invited speaker and concurrent sessions)
 - One pull-up banner (sponsor supplied) to be displayed on stage during the invited speaker sessions



OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome Reception Sponsor (\$3,000 - one only)

The Welcome Reception provides an ideal opportunity to showcase your organisation to all delegates in an informal environment. It is the first function of the conference and will have a very positive vibe as delegates come together to network and mingle with invited guests.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Named as Welcome Reception Sponsor in Conference Program and proceedings
- Spokesperson to address delegates during the Welcome Reception
- One complimentary conference registration, including Welcome Reception
- Two additional complimentary tickets to the Keynote Address & Welcome Reception
- Acknowledgement as Welcome Reception Sponsor throughout the event
- Name and logo (including hyperlink) on conference website
- Sponsor-supplied signage prominently displayed at Welcome Reception

Conference Dinner Sponsor (\$5,000 - one only)

The Conference Dinner provides an ideal opportunity to showcase your organisation to all delegates and invited dignitaries in a sit down dinner setting. It is the highlight social event of the conference and gives the sponsor an opportunity to .

- Named as Conference Dinner Sponsor in Conference Program and proceedings
- Spokesperson to address attendees during the Conference Dinner
- 2 complimentary conference registrations
- 2 complimentary tickets to the Conference Dinner, at the VIP table
- Acknowledgement as Conference Dinner Sponsor throughout the event
- Name and logo (including hyperlink) on conference website
- Sponsor-supplied signage prominently displayed at Conference Dinner

International Keynote Speaker Sponsor (\$10,000 - one only)

Have your organistion associated with one of the world's leading thinkers and educators in early childhood development by meeting the expenses of our International Keynote Speaker.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Named as International Keynote Sponsor in Conference Program and proceedings
- One pull-up banner (sponsor supplied) to be displayed during the keynote session
- Acknowledgement at the opening and closing of the keynote address
- 1 complimentary conference registration (inc. Welcome Reception & Keynote address)
- One complimentary conference dinner ticket
- Name and logo (including hyperlink) on conference website

International Invited Speaker Sponsor (\$5,000 - two only)

Have your organistion associated with one of the world's leading thinkers in early childhood development by meeting the expenses of one of our International Invited Speakers.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Named as International Invited Sponsor in Conference Program and proceedings
- One pull-up banner (sponsor supplied) to be displayed during the invited speaker's session
- Acknowledgement at the opening and closing of the invited speaker's address
- 1 complimentary conference registration (inc. Welcome Reception & Keynote address)
- Name and logo (including hyperlink) on conference website

Workshop Sponsor (\$5,000 - two only)

The pre-conference workshop are an exclusive opportunity to associate your organisation with highly innovative best practice methods and practices in early childhood development assessment, in sessions facilitated by world leaders in the field.

- Named as Workshop Sponsor in Conference Program and proceedings
- Two pull-up banners (sponsor supplied) to be displayed during the workshop sessions (x2)
- Acknowledgement at the opening and closing of the workshop
- Name and logo (including hyperlink) on conference website

EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

On Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th September there will be a limited number of exhibition booths available. The exhibition space will be a spacious foyer area outside the main lecture auditorium and the breakout rooms for plenary sessions. To ensure exhibitor-delegate interaction, morning and afternoon teas will be served in the centre of the exhibition space, and the lunch period will also include time for exhibition viewing. Exhibitors will receive acknowledgment on the conference website and in the Conference Program. Should your display or exhibit have individual space or layout requirements, we would be happy to discuss your specific needs.

COST: \$2,000

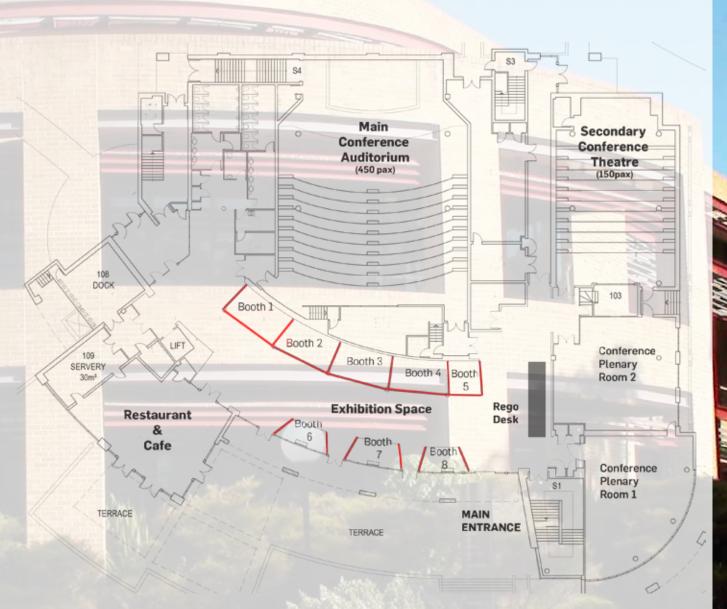
WHO YOU WILL ENGAGE WITH:

- People working in the early childhood sector
- Early years, education and psychology academics
- University students studying early years and primary education
- Education policy-makers, politicians and agency officials

BENEFITS:

- One complimentary conference registration
- Two chairs and one tresle table with cloth
- Complimentary morning and afternoon tea and lunch
- Complimentary attendance to Welcome Reception and Keynote

EXHIBITION SPACE LAYOUT



ACCESS TO THE EXHIBITION AREA:

Exhibitors will have access to their booth from 7am Monday 28 September. Exhibitors can continue to prepare their displays until 5pm that day. At the conclusion of the conference, booths can be dismantled after lunch on Wednesaday 30 September, and dismantling must be completed by 5pm. There is no available storage space at the venue so exhibitor equipment will not be held before bump-in commences or after bump-out is complete.

"Because every child deserves an early start"



For further information about the conference contact:

Sarah Andrews

sarahand@uow.edu.au

Phone: 02 4221 4387

earlystart.uow.edu.au