

# ***Toni & Robin Christie***

***Keynote speaking & workshop presentation***



**Toni and Robin Christie are inspirational Keynote speakers in the field of early childhood education.**

Robin's work designing and building children's playgrounds, furnishings and equipment is internationally renowned. He is a passionate advocate for natural and aesthetic environments for our youngest Children. Robin is also a bit of a clown and likes to dress up as his alter ego, Doctor Bob, and put on science shows and workshops. He is a puppeteer, musician and storyteller as well as a father, teacher and husband.

Toni is the real brains of the outfit, and she is recognised internationally for her contributions to the field of infant and toddler research and writing. Toni delivers keynote addresses and workshops on many and varied subjects relevant to early childhood education including leadership, communication, emotional development, respectful care, behaviour guidance and self-review. Toni enjoys her many roles as author, editor, marriage celebrant, mother and wife.

Together Toni and Robin provide visionary leadership for their team of more than 50 teachers, designers and administrators at Childspace. They edit a quarterly magazine for early childhood in New Zealand and run around their country teaching early childhood teachers to play the ukulele among other things. These two always travel together and they make the perfect addition to early childhood education conference programmes as keynote speakers and workshop facilitators. They are passionate advocates, highly inspirational, knowledgeable, entertaining and fun!

***The following pages outline what Toni & Robin can deliver for your group.***



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# Respectful care is only fair

Presented by: Toni Christie

**Keynote or workshop from 1 hour - full day.**

Toni Christie will explore and discuss the important recent research looking into respectful ways of being with infants and toddlers. Infant care and education is the fastest growing area in early childhood education. We need to be sure we are getting it right with our youngest and most vulnerable members of society. This presentation will explore the ideas of respect for infants in early childhood settings. The information presented will be based on Toni's book, *RESPECT: A practitioner's guide to calm & nurturing infant care & education* (2011).



*"Feedback from participants on the Keynote, Master Class and Seminar has been overwhelming and we appreciate the hours and huge effort you put in to make the sessions and the conference such a success."* Siobhan Fitzpatrick, CEO Early Years Northern Ireland

# R.E.S.P.E.C.T.- find out what it means to the babies

Presented by: Toni Christie

**Keynote or workshop from 1 - 3 hours.**

Join Toni Christie for this workshop based on her Master's thesis and focusing on Respect. In 2010 Toni undertook a qualitative case study examining the teaching practices, inspired by the Pikler approach and Resources for Infant Educators (RIE) philosophy. The specific practices observed involved primary caregiving, freedom of movement and respect for infants' confidence and competence. The overall aim of the study was to explore these practices and find out how they have been adapted from the original theories to fit in a New Zealand early childhood context. This will be an ideal workshop for practitioners wanting to create or enhance a respectful environment for infants and teachers.



*"I loved everything about the course – I have been to several Childspace PD courses and every time I leave I feel so incredibly inspired. I am very excited about reading through the resources in particular Toni's Respect book."*  
Course participant, 2012

# Essential Toddler Knowledge

Presented by: Toni Christie

**Keynote or workshop from 1 hour - full day.**

Toddlers seek to rule the Universe! This could be why this fascinating and delightful age-group is often much maligned and misunderstood. Drawing on her own research and research from Dr. Clancy Blair, Dr. Stuart Shanker, Dr. Ron Lally and Dr. Lillian Katz, Toni will shed light on the specific emotional and social needs of children at this age. This keynote/workshop will benefit teachers and parents who seek to better understand self-regulation, co-regulation, brain development and behaviour.





# Emotional development and self-regulation: The role of the adult

Presented by: Toni Christie



*"Toni has a warm and bubbly personality, with plenty of energy which she expends on her passion for good quality early childhood education." Dr Anne Meade*

## Keynote or workshop from 1 - 4 hours

This presentation will explore the role of the adult in the emotional development and self-regulation of infants and toddlers in early childhood settings. There are three ages of infancy (birth – 3 years). The first is “young” when a child requires security, warmth and caring. The second is “mobile” where a child seeks to explore, discover and move. The third is “older” when a child is looking for independence and control. When we understand the specific needs of the child at each age, we are better able to partner with that child in their learning journey toward self-regulation.

# Respectful people, places & things

Presented by: Toni Christie



## Keynote or workshop from 1 hour - full day

New Zealand's early childhood curriculum framework, Te Whariki, suggests that children learn through responsive and reciprocal relationships with people, places, and things. Through visual slides, story-telling, examples, experiences and powerful quotes, Toni illustrates how the infants, toddlers and young children at Childspace experience respectful people, places and things. The information presented includes simple examples of respectful interactions with children, images and theory behind the design of the physical environment, and how to select the best natural, open-ended and authentic toys and objects for optimal exploration and learning opportunities. Toni has offered this information as a keynote, half-day and full-day seminar.

# Leading, Living & Loving

Presented by: Toni Christie



## Keynote or workshop from 1 hour - full day

Toni has been leading, living and loving since she was a bossy little two year old. In this motivational keynote presentation she will share sage advice on the art of leadership, achieving balance, providing a good model for others, and caring for yourself and the people around you.

# Camaraderie, conflict & communication

**Presented by: Toni Christie**

**Keynote or workshop from 1 hour - full day**

This course is perfect for centre managers, team leaders and anyone with aspirations for leadership in early childhood. Learn how to get the best from your team by improving communication in your centre, increasing the camaraderie amongst team mates and utilising conflict as an important part of decision making and team growth.

*"This keynote was amazing! Toni is so inspiring and REAL. She has real life examples for everything she explains so it makes things easy to understand. I'm going to be using the team contract idea and also will be more open and honest as a result of this presentation".*



# Whole centre self review

**Presented by: Toni Christie**

**Keynote or workshop from 1 - 4 hours.**

This course introduces participants to a simple and effective self review system. The significance of developing a team vision and philosophy will be shared and discussed. Come and develop your confidence and understanding of whole centre self review.

*"What a great system to have to take away. This will really help us to review and improve our practices. Awesome presenter! Toni is funny and easy to understand."*



# Rituals: a pathway to self-regulation

**Presented by: Toni Christie**

**Keynote or workshop from 1 - 3 hours.**

Rituals provide a feast for the soul. This course will excite your senses by showing you practical ways you can turn your everyday routines into magical experiences for children. Meaningful centre rituals inspire children to willingly participate in the self-regulation process celebrating both a sense of social responsibility and a positive sense of self.

*"The whole workshop was inspiring and refreshing. Some awesome ideas and a slap back to reality of what we are doing in early childhood remembering what we are here for."*

Workshop participant 2012





# A natural playground - Nanny Mere's dream

**Presented by: Toni & Robin Christie**

## Keynote or workshop from 1 - 2 hours

Toni and Robin will share, through the use of storytelling and photographs, their most excellent adventure building a playground along with the community off a remote island of the coast of New Zealand. This presentation is a story of design, culture, isolation, budget, community, nature, aesthetic, language and a strong sense of place.

*"During our initial visits to the kōhanga we were struck by the passion of the whānau for a playscape that would provide tamariki with a real sense of place, a relationship with the island as a whole and a connection with the work being done by the community to restore the native ecosystems. We would incorporate symbols and landmarks that trigger conversations that extend children's understanding of the past, present and future of their home"* Toni and Robin Christie, 2010



# MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: re-building an early childhood playground in ten days

**Presented by: Toni & Robin Christie**

## Keynote

A team of six either brave or mad adventure lovers head to the furthest point of the east coast of the north island to re-design and build a kohanga reo outdoor area. Join Toni and Robin (two of the mad) as they talk you through the trials, tribulations, and celebrations of working in a remote area, with a limited budget, to create a culture specific playground.

*In 2010, I was fortunate to host Toni and Robin for work at our state university of about 20,000 students. At that time they gave a public presentation entitled: "New Zealand Early Childhood Care and Education: Exploring culture, environmental design and program services." The event received a standing ovation and front page newspaper coverage the next day!* – Karen Stephens, Illinois State University.



# Get creative with natural materials

**Presented by: Toni & Robin Christie**

## A full day course, materials and set-up required.

In this workshop participants will create their own masterpieces to take back to their early childhood setting. Simple ways to engage children with natural materials will also be discussed and participants will view images of environments where natural materials have been used to enhance the aesthetics and learning opportunities in environments for young children.

*"Loved having the time and resources to be creative. It gets the brain juices going. Very well presented with a great amount of time for each activity."* Course participant 2013



# Leading change in your early childhood outdoor environment

**Presented by: Robin Christie**

**Keynote or workshop, 1 hour - full day.**

Join teacher and designer Robin Christie for a wide-ranging workshop that will empower you to create change in your outdoor learning environment. Step-by-step guidelines will be complemented by an overview of design principles and case studies from New Zealand and around the world.

*"You could see Robin's passion and enthusiasm for environments. He was happy to answer questions and I like how the course was presented – very inspiring thank you."*

Course participant, 2013



# Current trends in environment design

**Presented by: Robin Christie**

**Keynote or workshop from 1 - 3 hours.**

Join teacher and designer Robin Christie for a wide-ranging look at worldwide trends in outdoor playscape design. View over one hundred colour slides of play spaces around New Zealand and the world, focusing on environments that empower children in the natural world.

*"Fabulous, inspiring, such an engaging speaker, so many ideas, loved the images, thank you for coming to the United States and sharing your vast knowledge with us."*

Course participant Boulder, USA 2013



# Quality improvement ideas for your outdoor environment

**Presented by: Robin Christie**

**Keynote or workshop from 1 - 2 hours.**

Join early childhood teacher and environment designer Robin Christie for an informative session that will help educators, managers and centre owners think about the possibilities for innovation in their outdoor environments. Participants will view and discuss slides and case studies from around New Zealand and the world.



*"We love Childspace as it has created an amazing base and foundation for our little boy to thrive in, he is surrounded by the outdoors, natural materials & fibres, a great learning environment where he can climb, explore and challenge his body and mind as he grows. From 5 months old, he has been at Childspace and he is now 18 months and the environment he has grown up in has been a great starting block to begin his life. The brilliant teachers have been so supportive to our family and right from the beginning we have been respected and made to feel at home."*

Parent reflection, 2012



# Early Childhood Environment Design Institute

**Presented by: Robin Christie**

**1-3 days.**

Join Robin Christie for these exciting days focusing on all aspects of centre and playscape design. Be inspired by case studies from Aotearoa and around the world, engage in brainstorming sessions on your own environments from plans and photos, and visit quality early childhood spaces in the Wellington region.

*"It was the most amazing course I've ever been on! Excellent value for money. We felt so welcomed and Robin was so full of bright ideas that we don't even know where to start!"*

Course participant 2012



## Early Childhood Environments around the world

**Presented by: Robin Christie**

**Keynote or workshop from 1 - 3 hours.**

Time for the big O.E! Overseas Environments, that is, from the U.K. through Europe and North America, home to Aotearoa through the South Pacific. Join Robin as he recounts his experience with early childhood environments, people and programmes through hundreds of full-colour slides.

*"I loved this keynote. I really felt like I was taken on a journey with all the images. Robin is so fun and exciting - he has great ideas and experience to share."*



## Playscapes from the fringe

**Presented by: Robin Christie**

**Keynote or workshop from 1 - 2 hours.**

There are many playscape designs around the world which have been thought up by people who are just completely off the planet. This is what makes them so much fun, so memorable, and so worth sharing! Playscapes from the fringe is a look at some of the early childhood playscapes which are a little out of the ordinary. The goal of this presentation is to get people thinking about the limitless potential for turning ordinary spaces into extraordinary playscapes. Participants will enjoy a slide-show commentary of original images capturing bizarre and beautiful early childhood playscapes from all over New Zealand and the world.

*"We are buzzing with ideas and ready to get started overhauling our environment."*



## You can ukulele

**Presented by: Toni & Robin Christie**

**A full day course, materials and set-up required.**

Our most popular course ever! Literally a hands-on course where you will get everything you need to get started with learning this superb little instrument. We guarantee you will laugh till it hurts and come away from this course desperate to get back to your team and show off your new skills.

*Best workshop I've ever attended. Never played music before so was totally stepping out of my comfort zone but felt comfortable at all times." Ukulele workshop participant 2013*



## Mosaic making madness

**Presented by: Toni & Robin Christie**

**A full day course, materials and set-up required.**

Participants will each create their own masterpiece. From drawing out your design, cutting tiles, gluing and grouting... You will learn everything you need to know during this course to catch the mosaic making bug!

*"What a brilliant day! I feel so creative, like I have really caught the bug for making mosaics!"*



## Hands up if you're hands on

**Presented by: Toni & Robin Christie**

**A full day course, materials and set-up required.**

Join the unstoppable Toni and Robin Christie for an awesome experience! These two creative early childhood teachers will share ideas and slides of some simple environmental creations teachers will enjoy having time to make during the workshop. They will also share some simple tips and tricks for science, puppets, and storytelling. Participants must be willing to get hands on during this workshop as there will be many things to make and do.

*"Toni and Robin were very, very, very awesome people to be around. Made us feel confident and great about what I had made. Would love to have more especially these types of workshops to help those centres that may not have much resources but can make their own"*





# **Paper: recycle, reuse & recreate**

**Presented by: Robin Christie**

**This can be a workshop from 1 hour - full day.**

A hands-on exploration of simple paper projects for ECE settings. Join us for an exploration of the limitless creative possibilities of paper. Paper is versatile, strong, colourful and abundant in our EC environments. Let's push the envelope! Literally!



# **Doctor Bob's teacher trickery**

**Presented by: Dr. Bob**

**This can be a workshop from 1 hour - full day.**

Join the chaos and hilarity as Doctor Bob demonstrates practical science experiments and shares his tips and tricks appropriate for early childhood education. Participants will be getting hands-on and experimenting alongside the Doctor and so should bring their sense of humour and wear comfortable clothes.

*Hands on, experiential, fun, non-threatening (apart from death by rocket haha) no special equipment needed - AWE Awe Wonder Enjoy. Thanks Doctor Bob, you make science fun (insert mad scientist laugh here)!*



***These are all examples. Talk to us about the specific requirements of your group. We will be happy to develop a keynote address or workshop your group will remember forever.***

*Joni + Robin*

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