

Little Pictures Big Heart – developing the link between visual literacy and emotional literacy.

Greg Lang – with a varied career history as teacher, university lecturer, principal and consultant Greg is able to bring a rich and diverse professional experience to the conference. He has a deep passion for early education, the arts and cooperative learning. He is a published author in areas such as special education and early children's literature. Greg has worked in Reggio Emilia based schools and centers in Australia and the USA. He is currently Director of Campus Kindy an internationally recognized centre of excellence in early education located at the University of Queensland Australia and lectures at several universities in his state.

ABSTRACT

Young learners are incredibly perceptive visually speaking. They are also incredibly perceptive of feelings, emotions and body language from a young age. Astute teachers can utilize one of the great strengths of a child's development – visual perception – to enhance their capacity to develop as more complete people. By helping children be more perceptive of what they see in quality children's picture books a teacher can help a child develop their emotional intelligence and emotional literacy (their living capacity to use their emotional strengths). The power of this is many fold - enriching relationships, strengthening intrapersonal intelligence, developing richer, complex interpretations of text and subtexts, enhancing comprehension and recall. Strong emotional literacy is a significant player in success in all aspects of life. This workshop examines the link between an approach that uses the power in illustrations to significantly impact on a child's development as a learner and a "emotional" being.