



Australian Association for  
Infant Mental Health  
West Australian Branch Inc.

# HOW ATTACHMENT THEORY HELPS US GO BEYOND BEHAVIOUR

**Presented By Robyn Dolby, PhD.**

Instead of using behaviour management or behaviour modification strategies to control children's behaviour, this seminar is about offering children a closer connection to feel calm. Connecting with adults who can protect them enables children to develop a sense of safety. This helps them avoid aggression and emotional collapse and leaves them free to explore and learn. In this seminar participants will learn what to look for in the children and in themselves in order to make a connection at the children's level and to take charge in a firm and kind way. They will see how this approach helps children to feel safe and respected and promotes their positive behaviour.

The workshop combines knowledge and practice, making concrete use of ideas from Attachment theory and the Circle of Security, Playspaces and Marte Meo so as to reflect upon children's behaviour and emotional communications and make sense of them.

## **Specific Learning Outcomes:**

In the presentation participants will have the opportunity to consider how they can put theory into practice to:

- (1) Structure transitions (eg morning separations; afternoon reunions in an early childhood context)
- (2) Plan support for children who have difficulty settling into a group environment or who struggle to play with peers
- (3) Lead without losing connection.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017**

**5:30pm** Drinks and light supper **6:00-8:00pm** Presentation and discussion

**Venue:** St John of God Health Care Conference Centre, 3 rd Floor SJOGHC Medical Centre,  
Cnr McCourt & Cambridge Sts, Subiaco

**Cost:** AAIMHI WA Members \$20 / non-members \$40

Full time students (show Uni ID card): AAIMHI WA Members \$10 / non-members \$25

**RSVP:** Please visit [www.dramatix.com](http://www.dramatix.com) and find the seminar under "Upcoming Shows". Click on the seminar and you will be prompted to select your ticket type (member, non-member, member student and non-member student). There is no need to bring your printed ticket as we will have a full list of those who have paid. You will be able to purchase tickets online until 12.30 am on 21<sup>st</sup> of March, 2017. If you have queries about making the payment online, please contact Stella Rogers, [aaimhiwatraining2@gmail.com](mailto:aaimhiwatraining2@gmail.com)

**Rural clinicians are invited to join the seminar for free via video & teleconference and are asked to please RSVP to Cherie Braden, [aaimhiwatraining@gmail.com](mailto:aaimhiwatraining@gmail.com)**

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**Dr Robyn Dolby** is a psychologist who has worked in the field of Infant Mental Health for thirty-five years. Between 2000 – 2011 she co-ordinated the project called “Attachment Matters – from relationships to learning”, an attachment-based intervention in a preschool. From this project Robyn has written the booklets, “The Circle of Security: Roadmap to Building Supportive Relationships”; “About Bullying” and “Promoting Positive Behaviour” and “Secure transitions: supporting children to feel secure, confident and included” published by Early Childhood Australia. She is clinical co-ordinator of the Resolving Conflict Project.

**AAIMHI WA Competency Guidelines addressed:**

**Theoretical Foundations:** Attachment, separation, trauma & loss

**Direct Services:** Parent-infant/young child relationship-based therapies & practices

**For early childhood educators**, this learning will fit directly into providing evidence for Quality areas 5 and 6 (building Relationships with Children and Collaborative Partnerships with Families), National Quality Standard.

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