



REAL WORLD LEARNING PRESENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND:

TOM BEDARD

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKING TOUR SEPTEMBER 2019

Tom Bedard, M.Ed., Early Childhood Education and, in 2009, was the first early childhood teacher to be named finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year Program. Before retiring from the classroom in 2016, he worked in the field of early childhood education for 38 years. During that time, he taught thousands of children in all age groups from infants to preschoolers representing diverse backgrounds and abilities.

His specialty has been to promote and analyze exploration of sensory play to better understand children's curiosity and competence in all areas of development. Through international, national, regional, and local presentations and through blogging on sand and water tables, he has created a platform for parents and practitioners from all over the world to reflect on children as learners and inspire them to imagine new possibilities for dynamic play and learning at the sensory table.

Educators looking for ways to expand and enrich play and learning with easy-to-make, low-cost materials or anyone who appreciates children's messy play will love these sessions.

Join Tom on his first ever Australian Tour, proudly brought to you by Real World Learning.

Full Day, Half Day and Evening Workshops as well as **evening presentations** available in **Australia and New Zealand**.

See over for Session Outlines.

Learning Outcomes

- Explore STEM through Sensory Play
- Create positive & engaging STEM experiences for all children through movement, risk taking and physical play
- Identify STEM Thinking and concepts in children's play
- Reflect on and analyse observations of children's play
- Improved confidence in using the language of STEM
- Build your own apparatus for sensory play
- Understand the benefits of sensory play, particularly in developing STEM Thinking skills

Real World Learning

Contact Bron for more information or a quote.

0409 288 681

bronwyn@realworldlearning.com.au

www.realworldlearning.com.au



**Real World
Learning**

Creating a Dynamic Sensory Table: Breathe new life into your sand and water table and inspire STEM Thinking **(1/2 day – 3hr or Full Day Workshop)**

Children tell the story of discovery and the joy of learning at the sand and water tray as they explore cheap and easy-to-build constructions in and around the sensory table. Through photos, videos and anecdotes, the children use non-scripted play to take charge of their own learning in all developmental domains, especially scientific thinking. Explore the value of sensory play in developing STEM thinking skills. Participants will also explore how this can be adapted in an outdoor sandpit, discuss implementation strategies, embracing the mess and how to bring all educators on board.

In this hands-on practical session participants create their own construction to use in their sand or water tray.

Levels, Spaces and Holes: Transforming your sensory tray to foster complex, intriguing and imaginative play **(3-hour Workshop)**

Create constructions for the sensory table using found and recycled materials and duct tape. Participants are offered a simple framework for building that includes six dimensions and elements to incorporate in their building process that foster scientific inquiry. Apparatus can easily be adapted for use outdoors in a sand pit or bush kitchen.

Dialogue with Water: Bringing scientific inquiry alive at the water table **(2-hour presentation)**

Through non-scripted play with water, children author their own scientific experiments. Videos, photos and anecdotes, show how capable the children are of complex scientific inquiry as they explore easy-to-build constructions that invite new and intriguing types of play. Given the time, space and materials, they pose their own questions for investigations, try out their own solutions, reflect on the results, and work with others in socially competent ways. These scientific experiments can be adapted or further explored outdoors, and consideration is given to sustainable practice in using our precious water supply.

Positive STEM experiences for the noisy and adventurous: Creating invitations for boisterous and adventurous play indoors **(1/2 Day or Full Day Workshop)**

Children use their bodies as thinking tools to explore and make sense of the world. However, we often ask them to disconnect from their bodies by asking them to sit still or keep their hands to themselves. Providing space for physical and adventurous play provides all children with opportunities for positive STEM learning experiences.

