



Profile of Kathy Walker

Author of the new book, *What's The Hurry?* and Education Consultant and early childhood expert



Kathy Walker (B.Ed, M.Ed) is an Australian-based Educational Consultant. She specialises in early childhood education and is a popular public speaker, highly sought after for talks to parent groups on a range of topics including school readiness, transition, the importance of play, self esteem, resilience and children's behaviour.

A former teacher and academic, Kathy has taught at early childhood, primary and tertiary levels and has conducted a range of professional development sessions for staff working across all sectors of early childhood and primary education. The media often approaches Kathy for her opinion on aspects of early childhood and primary aged education. In

her capacity as an educational consultant, Kathy has worked with schools, educators and governments.

Kathy conducts a range of professional development sessions for staff working across all sectors of early childhood and primary education in Victoria. Kathy has been a university lecturer in education for more than 12 years and has conducted professional development sessions for more than 10 years in primary schools.

She has a Masters in Education in Multi-Age classrooms and Family Grouping models and has taught in both primary and early childhood programs. She speaks to parent groups on a range of topics including school readiness, transition, the importance of play, self esteem, resilience and children's behaviour.

In addition to her latest book, *What's The Hurry?*, her publications include the book, *Teaming Up: Strategies for working in a multi-age classroom*. A video - *Putting children first*, a video on the importance of play-based curriculum, and a series of journal and conference papers published both nationally and internationally.

Kathy was the independent inquirer for the AEU sponsored National Inquiry into Preschool Education across Australia and her expertise in transition issues and readiness are an integral part of this inquiry.

What's The Hurry?, helps parents understand that raising children is about: *nurturing*, not training; *encouraging*, not controlling or forcing; *modelling* and setting appropriate limits; and *rules* at times in a child's life when they are ready and mature enough to understand them.

Other valuable information addressed in the book includes: the importance of play in children's lives; understanding children's behaviour; choosing a school; self-esteem and resilience; school readiness; children's learning and children at school. *What's The Hurry?* is a book that gives permission for parents to relax and not over-schedule their child, as well as providing appropriate information about a range of early childhood and school-related issues.

Parents, caregivers, teachers and other members of the community can download a sample chapter from the book, *What's The Hurry?* from ASG's website: www.asg.co.nz/wth

What's The Hurry? Reclaiming childhood in an overscheduled world – A guide for parents, teachers and the community by Kathy Walker can be ordered from ASG Education Programs New Zealand for \$21.95 plus \$5.90 postage and handling.