

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## Quality in Early Childhood Services

**Dr Linda Newman, Associate Professor Christine Woodrow and Dr Roslyn Elliott from the School of Education, together with Penrith City Council have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to investigate the quality of early childhood service provision in long day care centres and preschools.**

Traditional early childhood curriculum and teaching methods have shortcomings in the light of contemporary theory and practice. Many practitioners have embraced contemporary approaches but are ill equipped to implement new methods and explain new understandings of children's learning to parents, affecting service quality,' says Dr Newman. 'This study investigates what children, parents, staff and managers value in curriculum.'

Focus groups will be conducted with children, parents, children's services staff and management. Children will be given digital cameras to record what they like to do when they attend their service. Parents who do, or could, use children's services in Penrith City will be surveyed to examine their perceptions of what they want from a children's service. Teaching and ancillary staff and early childhood service managers in the range of children's services in Penrith City will be surveyed to examine their perceptions of what they think is important in a children's service.



The findings will help to inform the development of a locally built evaluation framework which will be applied to a curriculum renewal project currently underway in Penrith.

**Project Title:** Standing tall on shifting grounds: Local early childhood professionals, children, families and managers addressing quality in times of global paradigm shifts.

**Funding has been set at:** \$15,971

**Contact Details:** [l.newman@uws.edu.au](mailto:l.newman@uws.edu.au),  
<http://www.uws.edu.au/education>

**August 2008**

**For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:**

[http://www.uws.edu.au/research/ors/  
funding\\_opportunities/internal\\_research\\_grants](http://www.uws.edu.au/research/ors/funding_opportunities/internal_research_grants)