

## **Reducing Aggressive Behaviours in Early Childhood Education**

This presentation will describe the conceptual framework, design and preliminary results from the three-year (2006-2008) group randomised control trial called the Children's Aggression Prevention Project (CAP), which targets 5 year old Australian children. The CAP Project aims to support early childhood education teachers in three areas that appear to be important in reducing aggression in children and in supporting pro-social interactions between children. First, it addresses children's emotion regulation, social information processing and social goals to help students understand the types of situations which present the greatest risk of aggressive behaviours and to give teachers greater insight into the aggressive child. Second, a version of the Good Behaviour Game (GBG) has been used to provide strategies that address the importance of developing positive peer relationships, particularly to limit problems with aggression and to improve the way that peers respond to children who have difficulty controlling themselves. Third, to encourage positive teacher-student relationships, the CAP Project includes strategies to help teachers recognise the early signs of relationship trouble and to help teachers work through these problems. A key strategy called Banking Time, developed by Robert Pianta, is used to help teachers recognise that a solid relationship needs a "store" of positive experiences that they can draw upon when their relationship with the child is in a difficult period. The CAP Project also includes specially prepared items for parents to reinforce and help them to support the social and emotional learnings provided in the CAP lessons.