



**Evidenced Based Research**



**Curtin University**

## **Animal Fun Movement Program, An introduction workshop**

Appropriate motor skills are essential for all children. Children with poor motor skills participate less in physical activity than other children and this has been linked to health problems such as obesity and cardio vascular problems. Children with poor motor skills also see themselves as less competent both athletically and academically and this can lead to feelings of low self-worth.

The Animal Fun concept was originated by Emeritus Professor Jan Piek in response to a request from teachers who were looking for an effective program to improve motor skills and social skills in very young children. Animal Fun was further developed by an interdisciplinary team of psychologists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists from Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia.

Animal Fun is a unique program designed to promote motor skills and social skill development in young children aged 3-6 years. Based on imitating animal movements, Animal Fun allows children to practice and develop their skills within an imaginative, play environment.

Flexible and so simple to use, Animal Fun Activities can be embedded into the everyday routines and rituals of the child.

Whilst this program is designed to be inclusive and suitable for children of all abilities it may be particularly beneficial for children with motor coordination problems such as Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD),

**Sue McLaren** is the Director of Animal Fun. She was also the Research and Project Coordinator for the randomised controlled trial research project at Curtin University in Perth, which was evaluating the effectiveness of Animal Fun. Sue has a Social Science background. She has wide experience with teachers and families and a keen interest in working with children with special needs and their families. Sue is a member of Early Childhood Australia and Early Childhood Intervention Australia and the Move, Grow, Engage collaborative research group with colleagues from the University of Western Australia and the University of Notre Dame Australia with the aim of promoting current research and supporting families with children diagnosed with Developmental Coordination Disorder.

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2017, Saturday [9.30-12.00pm]**

**\*FOS Member \$58.00**

**Non-member \$88.00**

Limited time offer:  
Purchase Animal Fun Program for \$358.00  
U.P \$488.00

Animal Fun Program consists of:

- Animal Fun Manual
- Activity Flash Cards set of 97 A5 Laminated Flash Cards
- Animal Fun @Home Book

