



## What's the Buzz?

A social skills enrichment programme for primary students

## What's the Buzz?

For early learners  
a complete social skills foundation course



# What's the Buzz? Training Day, 2017

Presented by Mark Le Messurier and Madhavi Nawana Parker

<http://www.whatsthebuzz.net.au/main-menu/welcome>

You are invited to a **'What's the Buzz?'** Training Day based on the EARLY LEARNERS and the PRIMAY programs

**BE WARNED:** *The session will be practical as we immerse ourselves into role-plays, quizzes and social skills games that students themselves usually experience. So, dress comfortably and come along with an open spirit to laugh, learn and play!*

*Welcome to the refreshing world of social and emotional literacy, and one very special way to teach it! This training session will be sprinkled with laughter, quality learning and friendship. Mark and Madhavi intend to present a practical window into this unique global program - now in hundreds of schools and organisations throughout the world, and soon to be in schools throughout China. They wish to leave you with something you can begin to use the next day to add to your school or class values, as well as to enrich your everyday interactions WITH young people and BETWEEN young people themselves.*

In 2011, **What's the Buzz? A social skills enrichment program for primary students**, was released and instantly became an international best seller. This 16 lesson highly structured, role-play and play-based program was designed to teach children how to think socially and make friendship work. The program engages children into feeling friendship together, it encourages them to see it, taste it, smell it and laugh with each other. It connects young people to each other and to staff. It offers them the skills to belong. Enjoy –

<http://www.whatsthebuzz.net.au/main-menu/whats-the-buzz-training-video>

**'What's the Buzz? for Early Learners: A complete social skills foundation course'** is new (2015), and follows the same celebrated play-based and role-play format as its predecessor. It's built for teachers, school support workers, parents, care givers, and a range of allied health professionals to awaken social consciousness in youngsters. Over 16 lessons students become immersed in a variety of essential relational skills, stimulated by the experiences of our much-loved character, Archie. In each lesson the children help Archie solve the very same social dilemmas that occur in their everyday lives. As they do this, through activity, discussion, role-play and quizzes, they'll learn how-to become a more flexible social thinker. Enjoy -

<http://www.whatsthebuzz.net.au/main-menu/archies-big-book-of-friendship-adventures-sample-videos-read-by-the-authors>

**'What's the Buzz?'** has won the commendation of KidsMatter because it is an authentic counselling approach that can be used to wisely guide all kids to think socially and master social flexibility. It is designed around the 'SAFE' criteria; developed, tested and proven by CASEL ([www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org)) to have the best chance at transferring skills from the classroom into other real-life situations.

Collective research confirms that children who engage with peers, attach to them, and feel as though they have healthy relationships have a much greater chance of happiness and wellbeing as they grow. Without explicitly teaching a considerable number of children how to connect, and work with differences, we run the risk of some becoming discouraged, or worse. Sadly, when young human beings can't find a way to belong to peers, or to a school or class culture, a faulty logic clicks in allowing them to believe that what they're doing is working, even though it is not - their thinking becomes stuck!

Teaching social and emotional literacy with the same commitment and vigour we've traditionally taught academic skills increases a young person's confidence and competence to get along with others and embrace life. **'What's the Buzz?'** provides a springboard for students to do just this!



# ***OVERVIEW of the TRAINING DAY***

The TRAINING DAY will be held at SOPHIA Conference Centre. SOPHIA is located at 225 Cross Road, Cumberland Park, South Australia. It is right next door to Cabra Dominican College.

## **8.30am: Arrival, registration, introductions and coffee**

### **9.00am to 10.40am: Welcome**

- Meet Madhavi, Mark and each other with the 'ball rolling activity' from the EARLY LEARNERS program
- ACTIVITY: Share a story that might give a delightful insight into you
- Social and Emotional Literacy, defined
- Key assumptions concerning our efforts to build emotional literacy
- One special way to build empathy and the ability to reason about other people's thoughts and beliefs in students of all ages
- If we know so much about developing children's social/emotion skills, why is it so hard to make these skills stick?
- Introducing the PRIMARY program and lesson format
- Introducing '*What's the Buzz?*' for EARLY LEARNERS, *Archie's BIG BOOK* of Friendship Adventures and lesson format
- ACTIVITY - 'BACK to BACK' to 'FACE to FACE' and learning review
- **Lesson 4 of 16: being friendly (A PRIMARY program sample Lesson)**
- Let's talk – an opportunity for questions, answers and general discussion – come along with questions to ask!

## **10.40am to 11.10am Morning break**

### **11.10am to 12.45pm**

- The 4 aspects to '*What's the Buzz?*'
- When is the program likely to perform poorly?
- What about the research? What gives the best opportunity for skills to transfer into the everyday lives of children?
- Showcasing - '*What's the Buzz?*' for EARLY LEARNERS - the lessons
- Who is the EARLY LEARNERS program really for? Here's the contents!
- **Lesson 13: Saying "No," or how to be assertive (An EARLY LEARNERS sample Lesson)**
- Let's talk – an opportunity for questions, answers and general discussion – come along with questions to ask!

## **Lunch: 12.45 to 1.30pm**

### **1.30pm to 3pm: Afternoon session**

- Exploration of the '*What's the Buzz?*' website and online resources
- **Lesson 5 of 16: Waiting - Archie has to wait (An EARLY LEARNERS sample Lesson)**
- Let's talk – an opportunity for questions, answers and general discussion – come along with questions to ask!
- Group Weather Massage and goodbye
- Complete feedback forms
- Collect Training Day Certificates and your opportunity for continuing coaching from Mark or Madhavi for 6 months

## **3pm: Close**