

OVERVIEW;

What's the Buzz? Training Day at SOPHIA

Presented by the authors, Mark Le Messurier and Madhavi Nawana Parker

You are invited to a ***'What's the Buzz?'*** Training Day based on the EARLY LEARNERS (2015) the revised PRIMAY program (2019) and the TEEN program – *'What's the Buzz with Teens?'* (2019)

This Worksop will be practical so dress comfortably and come along with a generous spirit.

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 great connection. We intend to present a practical approach into this unique global program, now in hundreds of schools and organisations throughout 130 countries. We wish to leave you with something you can begin to use the next day to add to enrich your everyday interactions WITH young people and BETWEEN young people themselves.

'What's the Buzz?' is a social and emotional enrichment program that works firmly within the Australian KidsMatter framework and guidelines because it is an authentic counselling approach that can be used to 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) to have the best chance at transferring skills from the classroom into other real-life situations.

How does *'What's the Buzz?'* fit into the Australian curriculum?

Here in Australia there's a wind of change, and it's palpable. The Australian curriculum has traditionally been packed with teaching reading, writing, mathematics, science, information and technology, and so on. Suddenly, a new capability termed, "Personal and social - recognising others' emotions, supporting diversity and working together" has emerged and is expected to be taught to all students.

This addition to the curriculum has caught a few educators off-guard. They cannot understand why teaching and learning social and emotional skills have found parity with the traditional subjects. Yet, the obvious truth is that these skills are at the heart of being human. Regrettably, too many leadership teams in schools remain unaware, or indifferent, about their responsibility to teach SEL.

Others justify their obligation by dabbling, and this approach has limitations, but it's unrealistic to expect a child to quickly incorporate the concepts learned in a weekly specialised session into their everyday life when a class teacher and parents have little, or no idea, what's going on and the child has little opportunity to practice the skills. Evidence of social learning is gradual and generalises best within home and school environments that build a tangible social and emotional culture involving all students, staff and parents.



In 2011, '**What's the Buzz?** A social skills enrichment program for primary students', was released and instantly became an international best seller. These 16 lessons 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. Due to its popularity a revised edition, with Archie stories, became available in 2019. 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' (2015) was released. It follows the same celebrated play-based and role-play format as its predecessor for primary students. 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-](http://www.whatsthebuzz.net.au/main-menu/archies-big-book-of-)

[videos-read-by-the-authors](#)



Our newest program is '**What's the Buzz with Teenagers? A universal social and emotional literacy resource'** (2019). It is the latest addition to the series, and Archie has grown up! He's now about 14 years of age, although his age is never revealed. He faces the same everyday social and emotional challenges that young teens in middle school encounter in their lives.

OVERVIEW of the TRAINING DAY - 9am to 3pm

8.30am: Arrival, registration, introductions and coffee

9.00am to 10.40am – morning session

- Welcome
- Meet Madhavi, Mark and each other
- The rise of Social and Emotional Literacy (SEL) or the ‘soft skills’ globally, and in schools
- Social and Emotional Literacy unpacked
- Key assumptions concerning our efforts to build emotional literacy
- An assortment of approaches to build empathy and mind-reading abilities in children, teens and adults
- Introducing the *‘What’s the Buzz with Teenagers?’* and lesson format
- Introducing *‘What’s the Buzz? for EARLY LEARNERS* and Archie’s BIG BOOK of Friendship Adventures
- Introducing *‘What’s the Buzz? for PRIMARY students, revised edition*
- How does it work? The lesson format from all 3 programs
- ACTIVITY - ‘BACK to BACK’ and learning review

10.40am to 11.10am Morning break

11.10am to 12.45pm – mid-morning session

- The 4 aspects to ‘What’s the Buzz?’
- When is the program likely to perform poorly?
- What about the research and transference of skills?
- Lesson 10 - empathy, responding to others with care (A PRIMARY program sample Lesson)
- Let’s talk – an opportunity for questions, answers and general discussion
- 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

Lunch: 12.45 to 1.30pm

1.30pm to 3pm - afternoon session

- Exploration of the ‘What’s the Buzz?’ website and online resources
- Lesson 7 Dealing with Disappointment, loss and grief (A TEEN sample Lesson)
- Let’s talk – an opportunity for questions, answers and discussion
- Group Weather Massage and goodbye
- Complete feedback forms
- Collect Training Day Certificates

3pm: Close