



Reducing Maltreatment Risk for Children with a Disability: Attachment-focused Early Childhood Intervention

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Acknowledgement of Country

Noah's Ark Inc. and I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and community.



Introduction

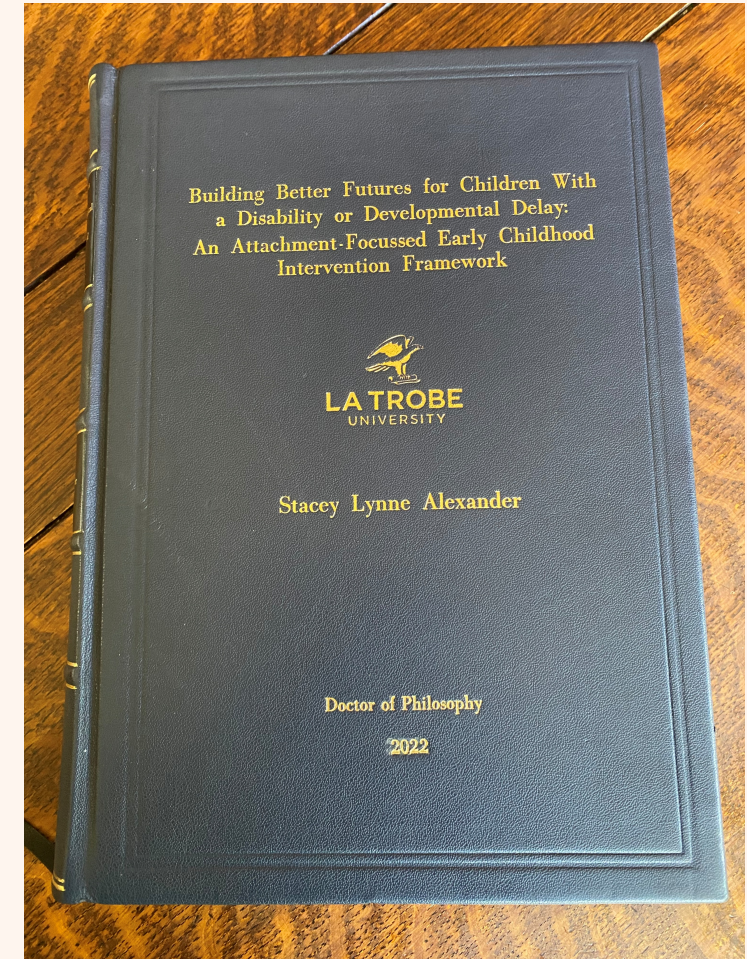
- Noah's Ark - Building better futures for children
- From Child Protection to Disability to Early Childhood Intervention
- ECI & attachment
 - Behaviour
 - Communication
 - Emotion regulation
 - Learning
 - Maltreatment
 - Social skills



The Research Project

How can ECI professionals improve the attachment security of children with a disability or developmental delay?

- **Survey of ECI professionals** (n=49) - knowledge, views, and practices
- **Risk and rights analysis** - NDIS
- **Systematic review** - attachment quality of children and interventions (n=215 from 6 studies)
- **In-depth interviews** (n=21)



Definitions & Findings

- Emotional bond
- Psychobiological system supporting species survival
- Secure - sensitive & responsive caregiving
- Insecure - low responsiveness, dismissing, unreliable
- Disorganised - anomalous caregiving
- 42% secure, 29% disorganised



Why is security important but challenging?

Why challenging?

- Disability
- Parental Stress
- Socio-economic risks

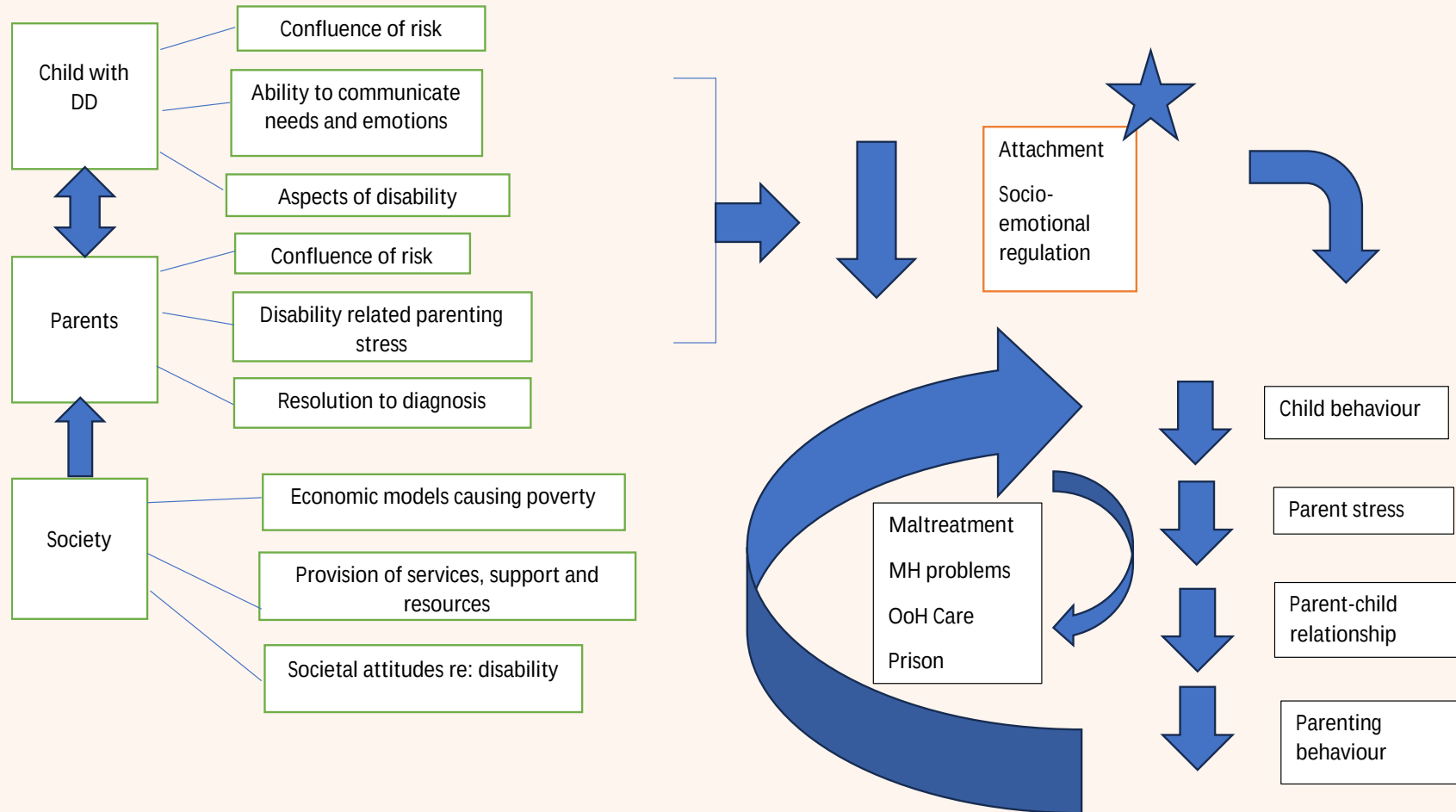
Why Important?

- Boost overall development
- Reduce risk of harm
- Proactive support



Photo by [Isaac Quesada](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Disability & maltreatment



Attachment-focused ECI

Parent-professional relationship

Key Worker

Coaching

Strengths-based

Routines-based

Attachment-focused

Talking about attachment

Supporting co-regulation

Using video to reflect

Cognitive strategies

Existing Practices

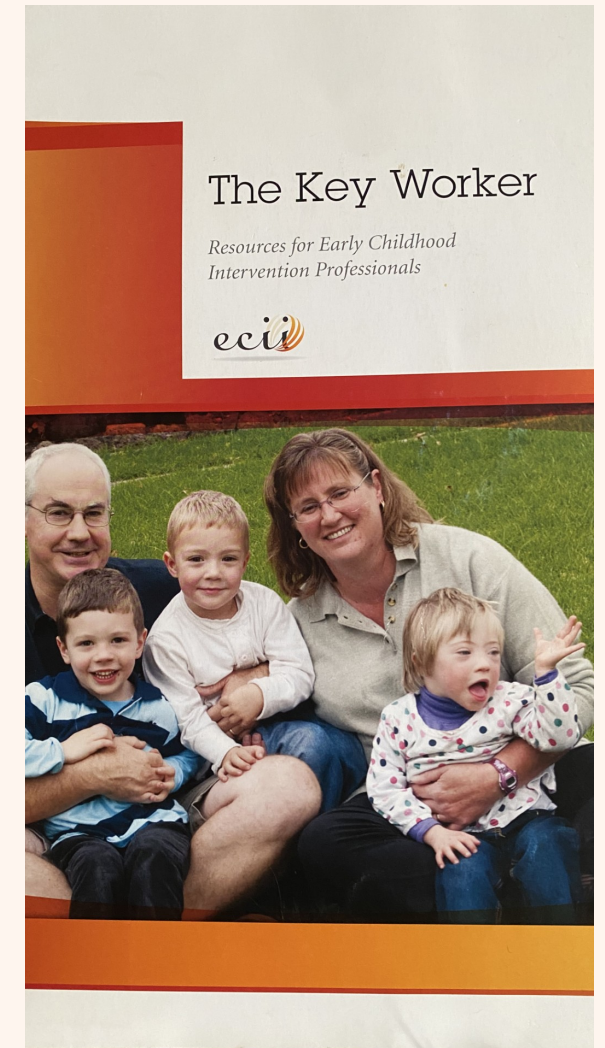
Parent-child communication

Parent-child play

Positive Behaviour Support

Family support referrals

<https://www.noahsarkinc.org.au/>



Assessment & Outcomes

General risks

Parent child interactions

- Ease
- Joy
- Engagement
- Control
- Repair

Child Development

Parenting feelings & behaviours

Parent-child relationship



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More information & thanks

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Noah's Ark website

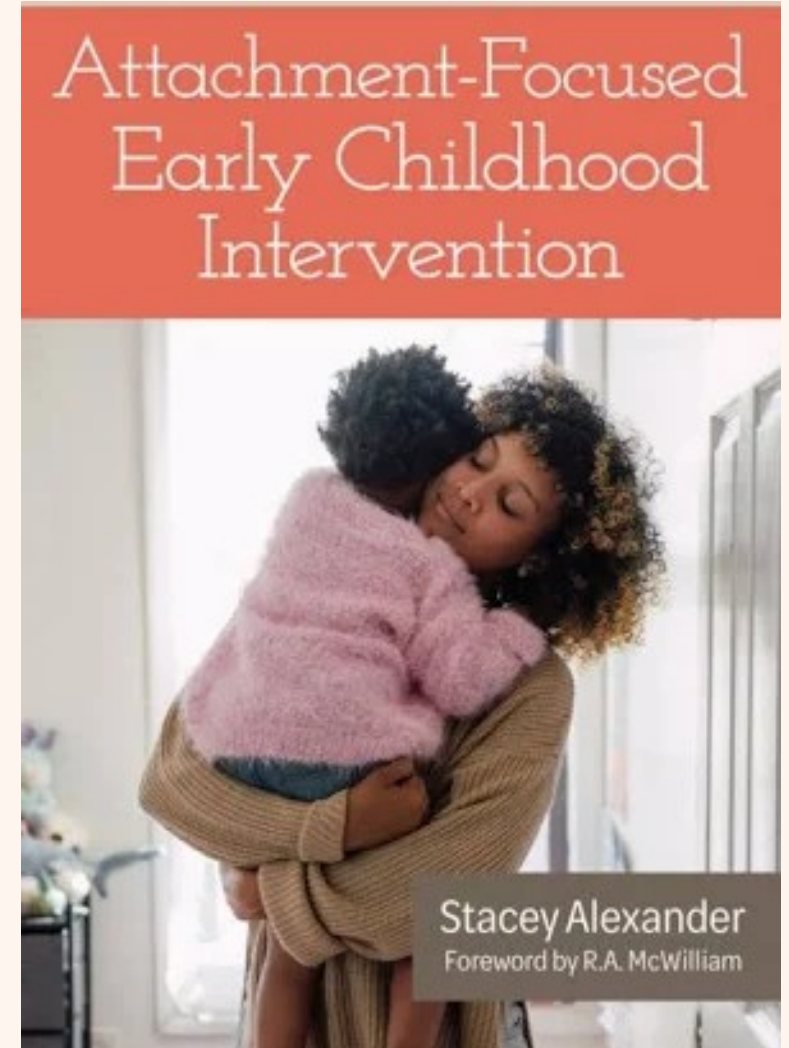
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Emeritus Professor Margarita Frederico AM

Dr Maureen Long from La Trobe University

Noah's Ark



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