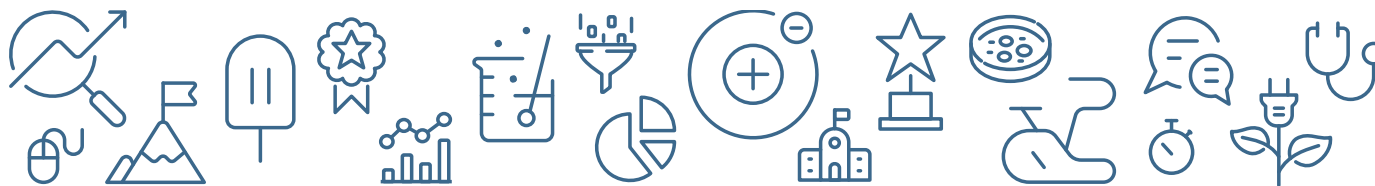


STEM in the Park



Team members: Associate Professor Linda Pfeiffer, Associate Professor Gillian Busch, Mrs Lyn Hughes, Ms Ondine Bradbury, Dr Daren Mallett

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN EQUITY AND ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING AND EDUCATION (CREATE)



RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

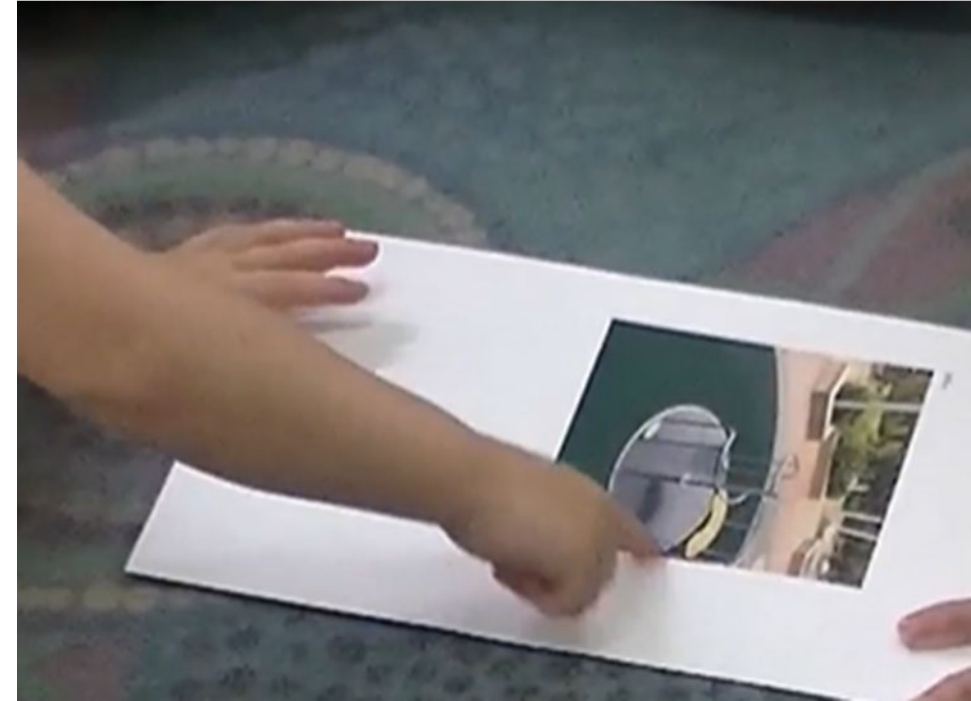
Aims of the project.

- » To conduct a pilot program to gain the perspectives of children and parents to support the design of informative signs to place in public playgrounds that describe science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts of each piece of equipment.



Research Questions.

- » RQ1. How do children understand STEM concepts involved in equipment in a play park?
- » RQ2. How do children interact and explore STEM concepts during experiences at a play park?
- » RQ3. How do parents/carers talk about and interact with children at a play park?
- » RQ4. Can interactive signs facilitate children's engagement in STEM concepts/interactions between children and parents/carers in a play park?



WHY STEM in the Park?

- » Children outdoors, back to nature (mental health, obesity)
- » Improve literacy, oral language development
- » STEM concepts (PISA / TIMSS)
- » Early age intervention
- » Parent / carer interactions
- » Play parks as a context (natural, experiences)



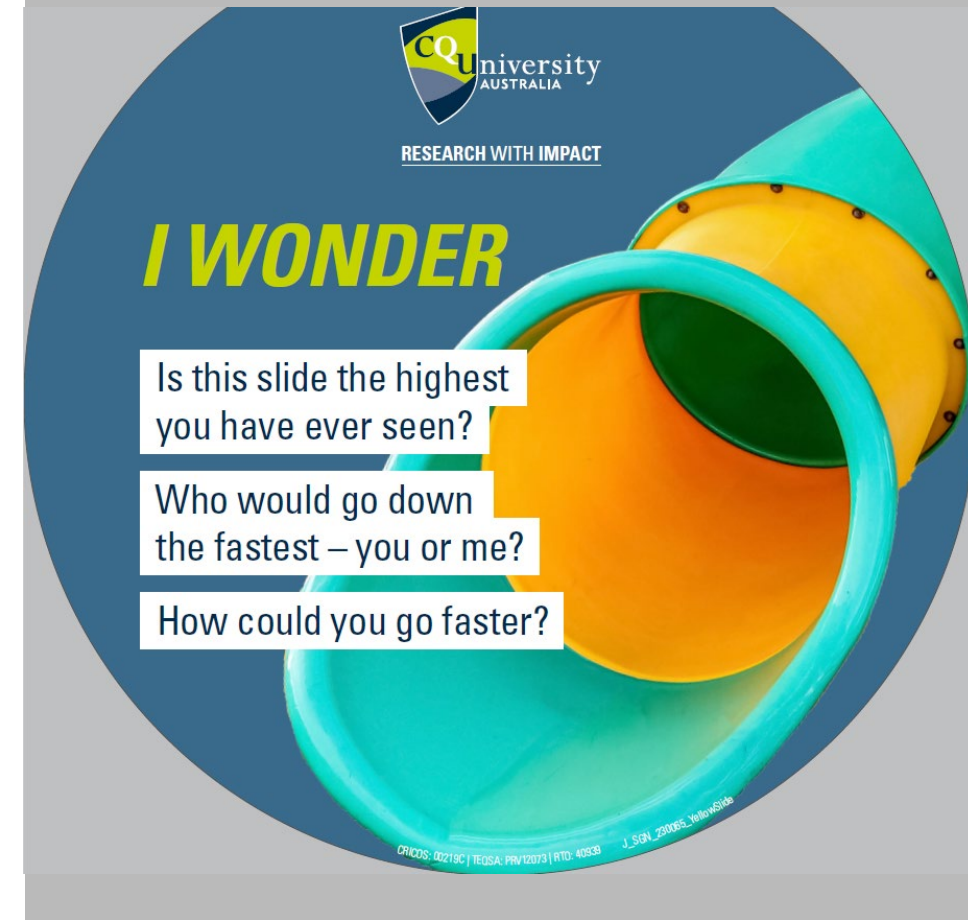
Progress.

- » Small group discussions with four-year-olds in two local Child Care Centres.
 - » Photo prompts of play parks
 - » Photo prompts of pieces of equipment
 - » Draw their own park
- » Signs were developed and placed in two local playparks.
 - » Parent wore GoPro to capture interactions between parent and child.
 - » Reluctance to engage with GoPro.



Request.

- » Financial support to expand the project.
 - » Semi-permanent signs / QR code.
 - » Printing and installation (3-6 months), survey development, data collection and monitoring, evaluation and final report.
 - » Estimated costs \$20,000 over 6 months. A full budget breakdown can be provided.



TEAM MEMBERS



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