Purpose of this Course

Theories can be challenging to learn at first and/or we may have had a less clear learning opportunity and we may not retain a confident level of knowledge to implement theory into our practices— guide our behaviours and critical reflections of this.

This course is documented with the intention of providing a basic introductory knowledge or for refreshing knowledge. Through simplifying and using visuals, basic outline and reflective questions. To inspire renewed confidence with the desire to continue to learn more and implement theories consciously more in your roles. With new found individual growth and perspectives, where you question what you do to improve your practices and the environment provided.

Take your time and don't rush, have a read, re-read and complete the reflective questions. This learning of theories can then be used to inform your philosophy and practice or even change your perspective. You can use the quotes in this book to display and promote discussion.

What are Theories?

One or more persons has an idea or group of ideas in order to explain or Interpret it. This person or people who hypothesis and research their idea are referred to as Theorists. They contemplate and find reason using different types of thinking such as abstract or generalizing about a phenomenon. Theorists review the literature and have an understanding of prior theories where they exist. You will find how for example in developmental theories how one theorist builds upon the ideas of another or apposes idea or aspects of the idea.
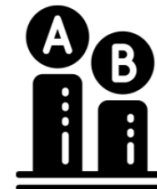
These ideas are observed using qualitative and quantitative methods to research their ideas, to establish facts or reach conclusions. Approaches to research depend on the branch of knowledge the idea relates to. It asks the "why" questions. Qualitative can be observed but not necessarily measured where as quantitative is about quantities and thus numbers.

As educators, parents or guardians of children we have our own perspectives of how children develop, learn and grow. This differs dependent on our values, beliefs, skills and knowledge and these perspectives change the more we continue to learn, critically reflect and challenge our own thinking and behaviour. We can have some approaches that we naturally do from our own perspectives when we are supporting children's development and learning. Even though theories are changing and evolving overtime it is important to be aware of them so we can provide more quality approaches and outcomes in an environment that is supportive for the child and all other stakeholders within the child's community.

The theories we look at in early childhood relate to how children learn and develop and grow and our role and the environments role within this learning, development and growth.

Ology