



Dr. Elfriede Ihsen, PhD, BSc (Hons), MARACY

Dr Elfriede Ihsen is an Honorary Research Fellow at OTARC and the School of Psychological Science. Prior to joining La Trobe University, Dr Ihsen was a lecturer and researcher in the School of Studies in Disability at Deakin University and in Psychology at Swinburne University of Technology. Her main teaching subjects were child development, early intervention and visual impairment and blindness.

Areas of Interest:

- Development in early childhood, especially play, executive function and effortful control, aggression and bullying, parenting, transitions.
- Development of children who grow up under less than favourable circumstances because of disability or because of non-optimal family and community environments. Particular expertise: development of children with congenital visual impairment and blindness, with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and of children who have been abused and/or neglected by their caregivers.
- Services and programs that support these children, their families and communities. Particular expertise: early childhood intervention, family-centred intervention, outcomes-based programs, evaluation of programs and services, staff development and training.

She is also a reviewer for the Australian Journal of Learning Disabilities.

Dr. Ihsen is currently located in Italy for family reasons but continues to work in her current position at the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre (OTARC).

Recent Reports and Publications

Ihsen, E. (with assistance from A. Hacker (2007). *"Kasserian Ingera?" - How are the children? Evaluation of Yarra Ranges Integrated Family Services Year 1 (2005-2006).*

Oxley, J., **Ihsen, E.**, Fildes, B.N., Day, R.H., & Charlton, J.L. (2005). Crossing roads safely: Age differences in gap selection. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 37, 962-971.

Ihsen, E., Brambring, M., & Troester, H. The role of sound in reaching for objects by congenitally blind infants. Under review by Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness.

Kelly, R., Dissanayake, C., Hammond, S.W. & **Ihsen, E.** The relationship between symbolic play and executive function in young children. Under review by Australian Journal of Early Childhood.

Mawby, D. & **Ihsen, E.** The effects of effortful control, age and gender on aggression, bullying and prosocial behaviour in young children. In preparation.