

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2009

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Free forum on improving children's literacy skills

Families looking at ways to help improve their child's literacy skills are being encouraged to attend a free public lecture in Burnie on **Thursday August 13**.

University of Tasmania Dean of Education, Professor Ian Hay, will present the lecture, *Enhancing Literacy: A Family Perspective* at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus from 6.30pm.

An education researcher for more than 20 years, Professor Hay's presentation will highlight practical strategies families can use to help improve their child's literacy skills.

"Parents and carers play a major role in both developing and maintaining children's ongoing literacy development," Professor Hay said.

He will also address school-based literacy strategies designed for teachers and educators.

Professor Hay's research has surrounded students' reading comprehension strategies and the role that motivation, self-concept and self-handicapping plays in influencing their learning.

His research interests have also seen him working collaboratively on large-scale studies looking at children's early reading development and transition into formal schooling, particularly for those from disadvantaged communities.

"Engaging students is often a challenge for parent and teachers," Professor Hay said.

"While there is no one correct method, the evidence is that some strategies work better for different age groups, such as personalised readers for young children."

The presentation begins at 6.30pm with refreshments being served from 6pm. Bookings are essential. For more information and reservations phone (03) 6430 4949 or email ccc.support@utas.edu.au

For more information/interviews contact: Professor Ian Hay, Dean of Education, via Meg Huxley on (03) 6324 3144

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