



# Positive Eye

**Developing the essential early life experiences which underpin the development of literacy**

**Time: 10.00 am - 4.30pm**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

## **Workshop overview**

In the story of Harry Potter, Harry spends time living in a cupboard under the stairs at Privet Drive. If you are not able to see, how do you know what a cupboard under the stairs is? Is it the same as a kitchen cupboard? How do you know what it smells like? Sounds like? Feels like? Do you have to walk or crawl into the cupboard? How easy is it to bang your head on the cupboard roof? What is above the cupboard? In the story of Frozen, a scary Snow Monster appears. Are monsters real? How big is a Snow Monster? Is it as big as you or me? The understanding necessary to participate in the story of Harry Potter or Frozen requires a solid foundation of early concepts embedded in essential experiences which underpin the development of literacy and meaningful participation in stories.



In 1997 Koenig and Farrenkopf's research, 'Essential Experiences to Undergird the Early Development of Literacy' identified a repertoire of essential early life experiences to which young children with vision impairments need to be exposed to undergird their development of literacy. In this practice-oriented workshop, a holistic theme-based approach will be used to look at how these essential experiences can be included during the early stages of literacy development.

The reading readiness pathway of auditory and language development, tactile discrimination, fine motor skills, concept development and book and story skills will provide the framework.

Come and experience a visit to the seaside with Marvin, our lovable character, find out how Crazy Crab Craig saves the day and what colour ice cream Princess Peggy sells, at a special multi-sensory story performance of 'Marvin's Seaside Adventure and the rescue of Super Sparkle.' Consider the essential experiences and literacy skills that could be promoted and developed as the seaside story unfolds. Enjoy the opportunity to plan your own multi-sensory story and be inspired by the wealth of rich creative resources on display. Come and share in the joy of creating meaningful literacy experiences for children with vision impairments.



### **Course objectives**

- To consider the essential experiences which underpin early literacy development
- To understand the elements of a multi-sensory approach to literacy
- To understand how to incorporate multi-sensory techniques using an experience based approach