
DR SUSAN LINN VISITS AUSTRALIA, MAY 2019

International advocate against corporate marketing to children, and play expert, Dr Susan Linn, will be in Australia in May.

Boston-based Dr Susan Linn has been invited to provide a keynote address at the 4th Annual Early Childhood Conference "Sharing the Responsibility: Inclusion in the Early Years" conference being presented in Sydney on May 2 and 3 by the Australian Council for Educational Leaders and NSW Department of Education.

http://www.aceel.org.au/ACEL/ACELWEB/Events/2019/Early_Childhood_Conference/About.aspx

Dr Linn will then travel to Adelaide by invitation of the Australian Council on Children and the Media (ACCM). She will be meeting education leaders, and presenting a seminar for parents and professionals entitled *The Hostile takeover of childhood: protecting children from hidden online marketing* on May 7, at Concordia College, Highgate. Supporters of this event include MGM Wireless, and Concordia College.

Background:



Dr. Susan Linn is a Research Associate at Boston Children's Hospital, Lecturer on Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Founding Director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood.

Her book, *Consuming Kids: The Hostile Takeover of Childhood*, has been praised in publications as diverse as *The Wall Street Journal* and *Mother Jones*, and underpinned the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood to reclaim childhood from corporate marketers.

Her book *The Case for Make Believe: Saving Play in a Commercialized World* highlights how today's commercialised, screen saturated culture deprives young children of what is essential to creativity - time, space and silence. The childhood experience of inventing, conjuring, envisioning, thinking divergently, and finding the inner resources of flexibility and stamina to bring ideas to fruition, is the foundation of life-long creativity. Today's children are so busy reacting to stimulation that they never learn how to generate.

An award-winning ventriloquist and children's entertainer, Dr. Linn is internationally known also for her innovative work using puppets in child psychotherapy. She pioneered this work at Children's Hospital Boston and the Children's AIDs Program, where she used puppets to help children cope with illness, hospitalization, death, loss and other life challenges.

She has lectured on the importance of creative play, the impact of media and marketing on children, and the use of puppetry as a therapeutic tool in venues throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and soon Australia.

For further information, please contact events@childrenandmedia.org.au