

**STAND
OUT**

SEPLA-CON 19

Monday 22nd July – Rosehill Racecourse
Tuesday 23rd July – Rydges Parramatta



Switch Progression in the Contemporary Classroom: Beyond The Good Morning BIGmack

Ms Krista Forsstrom¹, Ms Helen Muir¹

¹Holroyd School

Biography:

Krista and Helen are classroom teachers at Holroyd School in Merrylands. Krista began teaching at Holroyd in 2010 and before teaching, worked as an SLSO and respite carer in homes and community settings for five years. Helen has been teaching for over 30 years across mainstream, special education and university settings. She completed the Special Education retraining program in 2010. She joined the team at Holroyd in 2014.

Krista and Helen joined forces to work on various school committees together in 2015. Since then they have undertaken research and training together and worked to implement and embed school wide programs to further the educational opportunities for their students with severe physical disabilities and complex learning needs. Part of this research has included teacher identified professional learning in the area of switch technology. Their most valuable source of information on this has been through the UK IT consultant Ian Bean's various publications and resources. Ian Bean's Switch Progression Road Map has greatly informed the way they teach their students to access switch technology to communicate. It also provides a structure in their coaching and mentoring of colleagues in student access to the curriculum through technology.

Ian Bean's programs and initiatives, in particular, The Switch Progression Road Map has informed Holroyd School's assessment and teaching practices in switch technology for students with a wide range of learning needs. In particular, the Road Map has helped to engage our students with complex learning needs in activities that have inspired and empowered them to take initiative in their learning. Through this presentation we aim to demonstrate how to support all students, including our most complex learners, in effective and independent switch use for functional and meaningful activities. We will discuss the fundamentals of working through a switch progression, outline the crucial early steps in switch use, give example of fun activities that colleagues could use immediately with any student and describe the lifelong potential and benefit for a person with complex needs moving through switch use.

We will discuss Ian Bean's Switch Progression Road Map (Ian has given very gracious permission via email to share his resources in this presentation), and colleagues will view an interactive guide to the Road Map through videos of Holroyd students at various stages of Switch Progression using a range of activities and different switches (which will be on display). Colleagues will be given links to The Switch Progression Road Map and other free online resources with future opportunity for teacher identified professional learning in areas including switch use, eye-gaze and touch screen assessments and programs created by Ian Bean. This will be supported with examples of how these activities and resources have extended our professional development and engaged our students. This presentation will also include a hands-on demonstration of a range of specialty switches that belong to Holroyd School. Colleagues will be able to access a range of switches and experiment with various activation methods and switch toys to experience why switches are not a one size fits all piece of equipment. We will exhibit equipment including standard slat, twist and jelly beamer switches and speciality switches including chain, roller, light, and chin switches.

We aim to demonstrate how technology can provide student autonomy in communicating, accessing the curriculum and having greater control in their lives. We would like to inspire our colleagues to

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extend their own professional learning, challenge their ideas of what a switch is and to go beyond switch use within the parameters of the Morning Circle BIGmack with a “Good Morning” recording.