It’s fun to play and learn

WANT to know one of the big secrets to raising well-adjusted kids? It’s child’s play.

Noosa Library hosted a Connecting Children to the World with CQUniversity Noosa Campus to celebrate Under 8s Week and highlight play-based learning.

A happy bunch of three- to seven-year-olds connected with all forms of language through stories, dance and arts and crafts.

CQUniversity early childhood education lecturer Kathy Bauer said play as a learning technique was widely recognised by early childhood researchers.

“Australian curriculum literacy outcomes guide teachers on how to measure a child’s language development and they’re most successfully met through a combination of play and explicit teaching techniques,” Ms Bauer said.

About 100 youngsters from Good Shepherd Lutheran School and Noosaville Childcare participated in tasks, including story interpretation, parachute activities and making musical instruments. Ms Bauer said the activities were based on age-appropriate literacy outcomes and benefited children and adults.

“Each task involves language, reading and fine motor-skills, with a level of difficulty suited to the age group involved,” Ms Bauer said.

“Parents and carers are encouraged to develop their children’s skills at home – such as a play-dough recipe with a brochure on its benefits as a learning tool.”

Early Childhood Education is an option in the Bachelor of Learning Management degree and provides pre-service preparation for students wanting a career as an early childhood teacher or educator.