



## Waka Tīwai : Manawatu

### *What it's about:*

#### **Transition Essentials for the Wellbeing of Gifted Children**

Understanding the characteristics of gifted children and supporting sensitivities, intensities and anxiety is a pivotal aspect of the transition process from the early years through to high school. Children's wellbeing is an essential goal and this can be best understood through some different frameworks for our NZ context. How do we encourage the child's voice in the process?

### *Meet your Facilitator:*

Your facilitators are Jo Dean & Suzanne Smith



Jo brings a mix of personal and professional experiences as an Early childhood teacher, parent, researcher and Professional Development facilitator. Jo is an active committee member of the regional CenGATE association in Palmerston North and has facilitated connections between early childhood education and primary schools, building a stronger networking community to support teachers, gifted children and their whānau/families. Jo is a dedicated member of the GiftEDnz Association and a founding committee member of the Special interest 'Early Years' group. As part of this work, a book was released in 2015 called *"Giftedness in the Early Years: Informing, learning and teaching"* By Margrain, Murphy & Dean.

Suzanne has been an educator in the primary sector for 25 years, being introduced to the amazing, complex realm of gifted education in her beginning year through Rosemary Cathcart. Interest then developed into a passion through her journey as a parent; particularly in the area of gifted+ needs. Working as a One Day School Teacher for around 5 years she then moved back into the state system as a GATE Coordinator at a primary school and is now a Learning Support Coordinator in Feilding. She has an advanced accreditation in Philosophy for Children (P4C) and is currently completing a Post Grad Specialist Teaching Diploma in Autism Spectrum Disorder. Suzanne is part of the CenGATE regional network committee for the Manawatu.