Karyn Johns is a Speech Language Pathologist who has worked with children and families for over 20 years. She graduated in W.A and has worked for a number of health and education agencies in SA, ACT and QLD, including Education Queensland for 10 years. From 2007-09 Karyn worked part time at Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School on the Tweed Coast with the aim being to support pedagogical change and curriculum development that strengthens the early years of learning, and integrates “up-to-date” teaching practices in the classroom. Aspects of this work will be presented to the World Reading Congress in Auckland NZ in July.

Since 2005 Karyn has also consulted to the Communities for Children project which has led to the development of resources and intervention approaches for the 0-5 years sector as well as the delivery of many workshops (Early Childhood Teachers Association, QLD Workforce Council PSCQ, Bond University). Her programs have led to partnerships with many agencies, including the Gold Coast City Council who adopted her Read and Grow program as part of their suite of story telling programs. This initiative will be presented to at least two conferences this year.

Finally, Karyn is a partner in a thriving private practice (S.P.E.E.C.H Pty Ltd) on the coast. This business currently provides services to children in 4 private schools, as well as clinical services in their rooms in Coomera. Karyn is passionate about sharing information and strategies with families, teachers and early childhood professionals that will support language, literacy and social skills development.

Karyn has two children - aged 14 and 10 years. They have taught her an incredible amount and probably have had the most important and significant impact on the work she does and the advice she provides to others.