



Charles Sturt
University

Bush preschools: A community of leaders

2024 HDR Colloquium – For Country and Community

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(Glenbrook Preschool, 2022)



Bush Preschools:

Bush preschools programs provide children with access to natural outdoor settings for an extended period of time on a regular basis (Christiansen et al., 2018)

Early childhood leadership:

“...to establish and maintain quality environments for children’s learning and development”
– ACECQA, 2018

“At bush preschool, we
be with the land. It’s
not our land, it’s
Aboriginal land. And
we talk about looking
after it and what that
means”

- Research participant





Two streams of literature

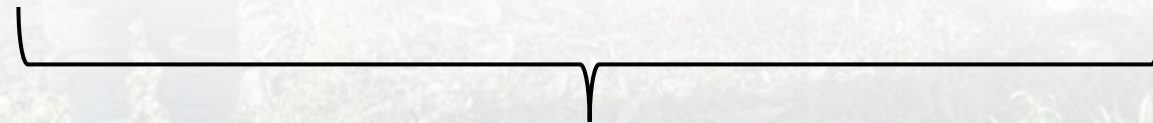


Children's learning and bush preschool:

- Inquiry-based learning and children's relationships with the environment
- Risky play and STEM learning
- Educators' pedagogical practices

Socio-cultural relationships and leadership practices:

- Leadership styles
- Relationships for leading
- Professional development

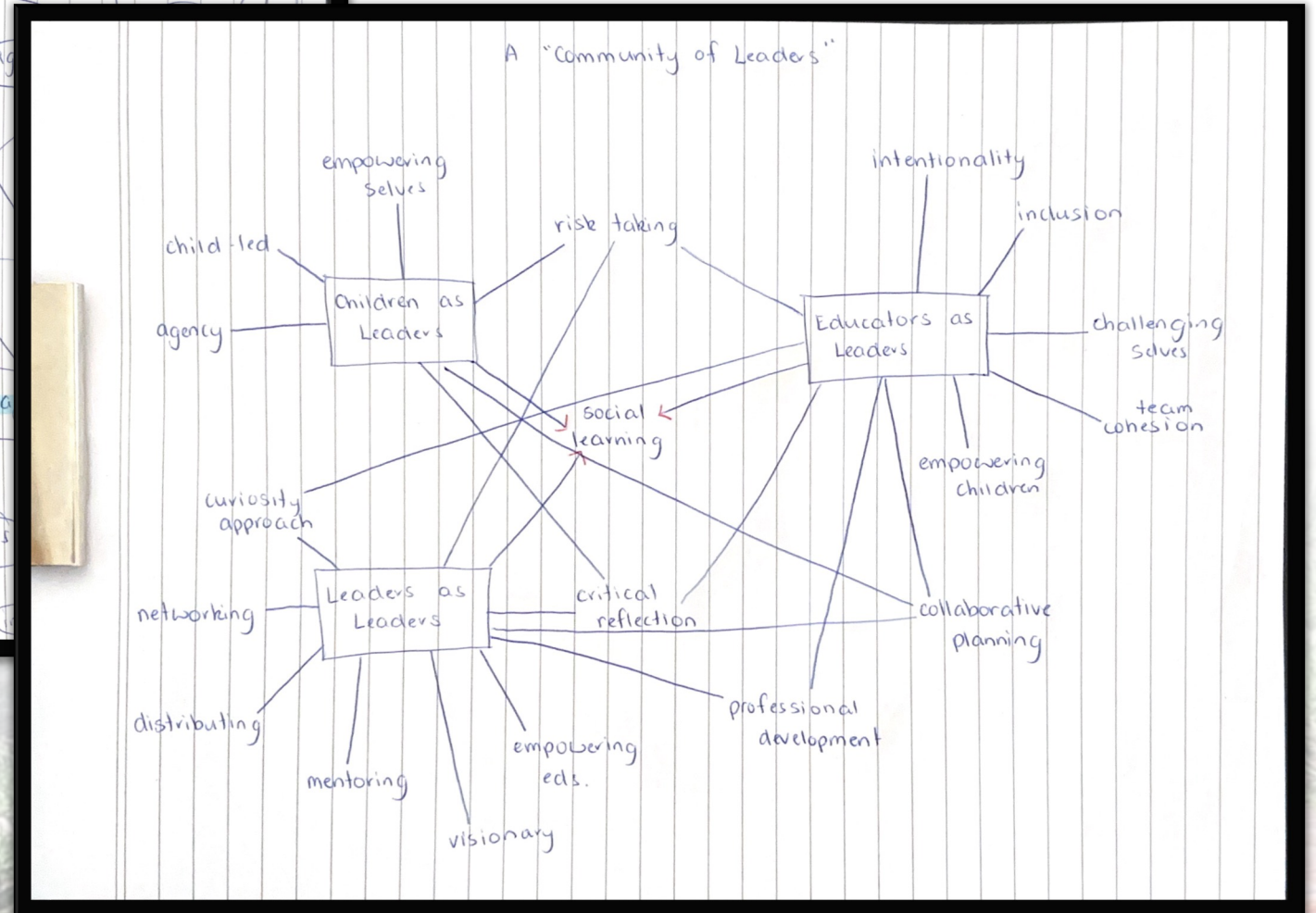
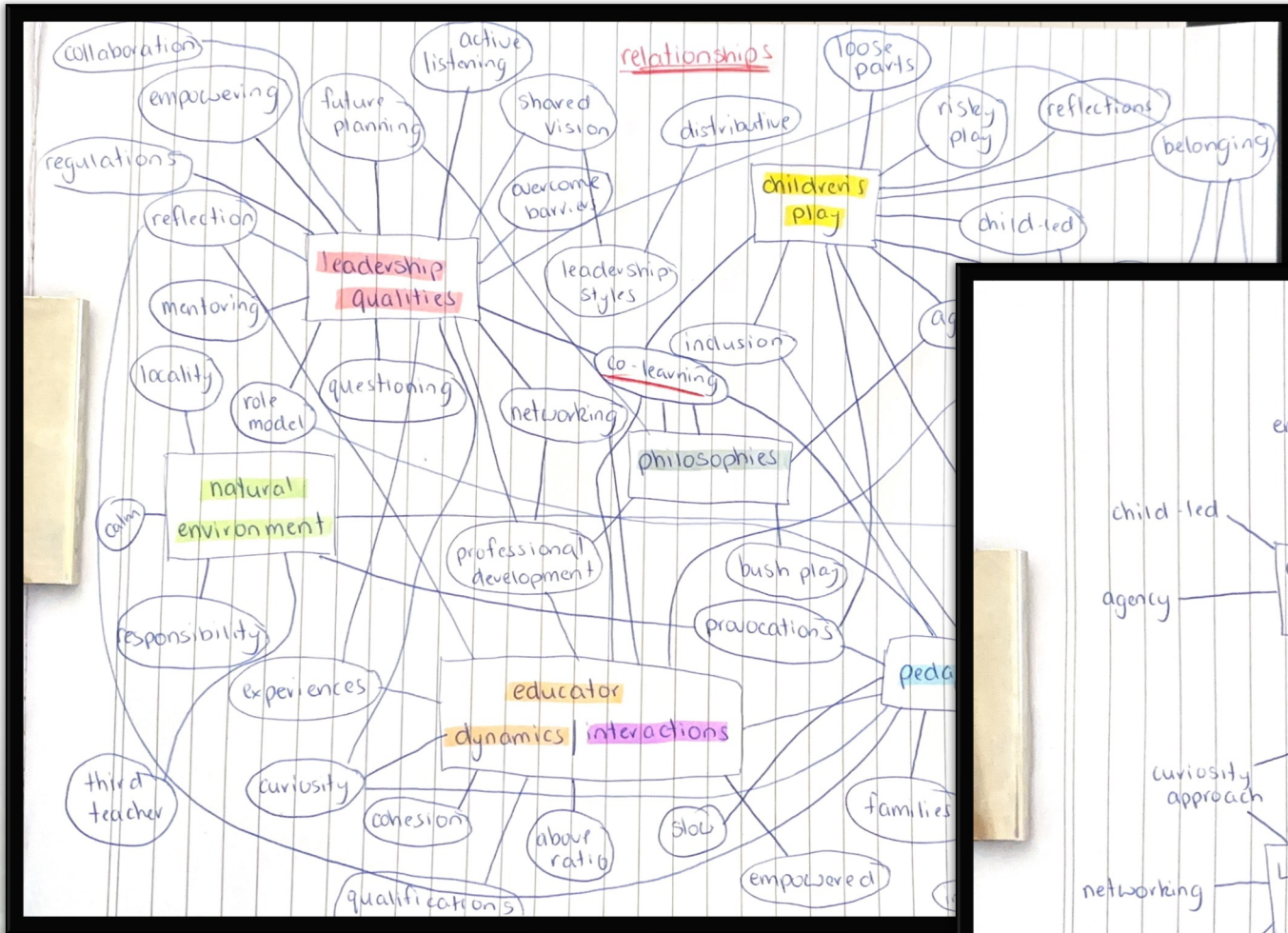


Research question: Bush play programs with a leadership lens: How does socio-cultural leadership inspire educators' pedagogical practices for bush play in the early childhood context?

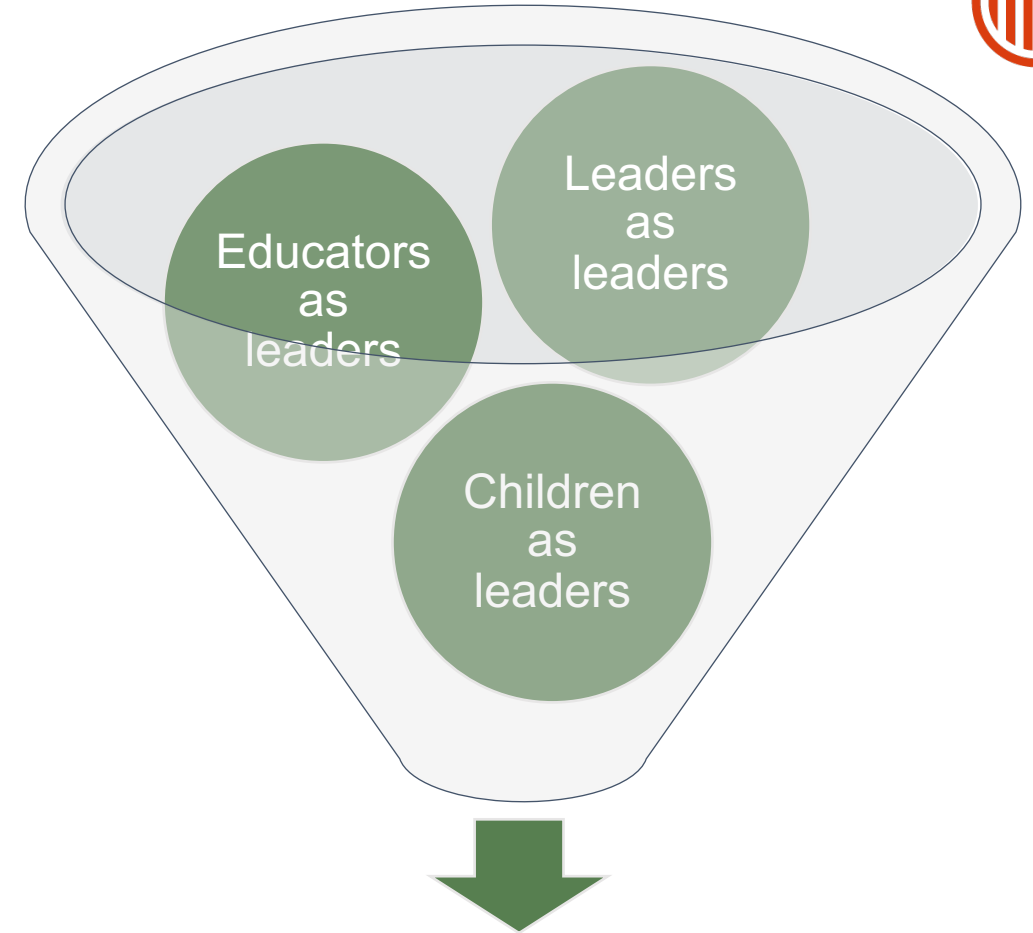


Methodological Approach

- Schatzki's Practice Theory (Schatzki et al., 2001)
- Communities of Practice (Wenger, 1998)
- Multi-case study (Stake, 1995)
- Purposive sampling
- Semi-structured interviews
- Reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2022)



(Glenbrook Preschool, 2022)



A community of leaders



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Thank you



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