



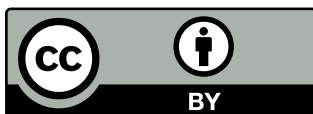
# BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING



The Early Years Learning  
Framework for Australia  
V2.0, 2022

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# INTRODUCTION

This is V2.0 of Australia’s national *Early Years Learning Framework*. The aim of *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia* is to support early childhood providers, teachers and educators to extend and enrich children’s learning from birth to 5 years and through the transition to school. The *Early Years Learning Framework* (the Framework) draws on robust Australian and international evidence that confirms early childhood is a vital period in children’s continuing learning, development and wellbeing. It has been developed with considerable input from the early childhood sector, including children and families, approved providers and educators, other professionals, peak bodies, early childhood researchers, as well as the Australian and state and territory governments and the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority.

The Human Rights Commission describes Australia as a vibrant, multicultural country. “We are home to the world’s oldest continuous cultures, as well as Australians who identify with more than 270 ancestries” (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2019).

In recognition of this, and the guiding principles of the National Quality Framework, the *Early Years Learning Framework* contributes to the realisation of Goal 1 and 2 of the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration (Education Council 2019 p. 4) that:

**Goal 1:** *The Australian education system promotes excellence and equity.*

**Goal 2:** *All young Australians become:*

- *confident and creative individuals*
- *successful lifelong learners*
- *active and informed members of the community.*

The Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration commits governments to ensuring all children learn about the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to seeing all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their education and all facets of life. Contributing to this goal, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, led by the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations and all Australian governments identifies early childhood education, care and development as a national policy priority. Furthermore, it commits to ensuring all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years. Early childhood education has a critical role to play in delivering this outcome and advancing Reconciliation in Australia.

As part of the National Quality Framework, the *Early Years Learning Framework*, supports the objectives and principles of the National Law and Regulations including the National Quality Standard. Recognising children as competent and capable learners who have rights and agency, the Framework has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and the intentional role played by both educators and children in extending and enriching learning. The Framework identifies a shared Vision for children’s learning, Principles and Practices to underpin learning and teaching and the 5 Learning Outcomes. Together these elements inform the professional work of early childhood teachers and educators.

The Framework has been designed for use by early childhood educators, early childhood teachers<sup>1</sup> and approved providers working in partnership with children, families, other professionals, schools and community members to inform educational programs and practices that are place-based and relevant to that community.

Educators guided by the Framework will reinforce in their daily practice the principles laid out in the

1 Early childhood teachers and educators are early childhood professionals who work directly with children in early childhood settings and from now on will be referred to as educators.



United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention) (United Nations 1989). The Convention states that all children have the right to an education that lays a foundation for the rest of their lives, maximises their ability, and respects their family, cultural and other identities and languages. The Convention also recognises children’s right to play and be active participants in all matters affecting their lives. Underpinned by a child-rights approach, the Framework supports implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Human Rights Commission 2018). It also promotes children’s safety, wellbeing and responsibilities as active citizens.

This document may complement or supplement individual state and territory frameworks. The exact relationship will be determined by each jurisdiction. Over time additional resources may be developed to support the application of this Framework.



# A VISION FOR CHILDREN'S LEARNING

All children engage in learning that promotes confident and creative individuals and successful lifelong learners. All children are active and informed members of their communities with knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.



Fundamental to the Framework is a view of children's lives as characterised by *belonging*, *being* and *becoming*. From before birth children are connected to family, communities, culture and place. Their earliest learning, development and wellbeing takes place through these relationships, particularly within families, who are children's first and most influential educators. As children participate in everyday life, they construct their own identities and understandings of the world. Educators engage children in learning that promotes confidence, creativity and enables active citizenship. They celebrate diversity with children and their families, and the opportunities diversity brings to know more about the world. Educators understand children may come from diverse backgrounds and acknowledge this in each child's *Belonging*, *Being* and *Becoming*.

## Belonging

Experiencing *belonging* – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Children belong to diverse families, neighbourhoods, local and global communities. *Belonging* acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, trusting relationships and affirming experiences are crucial to a sense of *belonging*. *Belonging* is central to *being* and *becoming* in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.

## Being

Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. *Being* recognises the significance of the present, as well as the past in children's lives. It is about children knowing themselves, developing their identity, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about children *being* in the here and now.

## Becoming

Children's identities, knowledge, understandings, dispositions, capabilities, skills and relationships change during childhood. They are shaped by different events and circumstances. *Becoming* reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as children learn and grow. It emphasises the collaboration of educators, families and children to support and enhance children's connections and capabilities, and for children to actively participate as citizens.



The Framework conveys the highest expectations for all children's learning, development and wellbeing from birth to 5 years and through the transitions to school. It communicates these expectations through the following 5 Learning Outcomes:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

The Framework provides broad direction for early childhood educators to facilitate all children's learning, development and wellbeing and ensure children are supported, celebrated, and connected to their community. It guides educators in their professional decision-making and assists in planning, implementing and evaluating high quality educational programs and practices in early childhood settings. It also underpins the implementation of relational and place-based pedagogies and curriculum relevant to each local community and all children in the early childhood setting. Relational pedagogy underpins the ways in which educators build trusting, respectful relationships between children, families, other educators and professionals, as well as members of the community. Place-based pedagogy refers to an understanding that educators' knowledge of the setting or context will influence how educators plan and practice.

The Framework is designed to inspire conversations, improve communication and provide a common language about children's learning among children themselves, their families, the broader community, educators, teachers in schools and other professionals including those who work in child and family services, higher education and training organisations.



## Elements of the Framework

The Framework puts children's learning at the core and comprises interdependent elements: Vision, Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes (see Diagram 1). All elements are fundamental to early childhood pedagogy and effective curriculum decision-making.

Curriculum encompasses all the interactions, experiences, routines and events, planned and unplanned, that occur in an environment designed to foster children's learning, development and wellbeing.

Children are receptive to a wide range of experiences. What is included or excluded from the curriculum affects how children learn, develop and understand the world.

The Framework supports curriculum decision-making as a continuous cycle of planning, assessment and critical reflection. This involves educators knowing the children, families and community contexts and drawing on their professional knowledge to plan for individual children and groups. These plans are implemented, evaluated and reflected upon to inform further planning.



Working in partnership with children and families, and communities, teachers in schools, and other professionals, educators use the Vision, Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes to guide their planning for children’s learning, development and wellbeing. To actively engage children, educators identify children’s strengths, choose appropriate teaching strategies and content, design the learning environment, and collaborate with children to co-construct learning. Educators build an engaging child-centred curriculum when they plan, analyse and assess children’s learning and critically reflect and evaluate planning and practice for and with children.

## Children’s learning

The diversity in family and community life in Australia means that children experience *belonging*, *being* and *becoming* in many ways. They bring their diverse experiences, home languages, perspectives, expectations, and cultural ways of knowing, *being* and doing to their learning.

Children’s learning is dynamic, complex and holistic. This means that cognitive, linguistic, physical, social, emotional, personal, spiritual and creative aspects of learning are all intricately interwoven and interrelated.

Play-based learning capitalises on children’s natural inclination to be curious, explore and learn. Children actively construct their own understandings that contribute to their own learning. In play experiences children integrate their emotions, thinking and motivation that assists to



strengthen brain functioning. They exercise their agency, intentionality, capacity to initiate and lead learning, and their right to participate in decisions that affect them, including about their learning.

Play-based learning:

- allows for the expression of personality and uniqueness
- offers opportunities for multimodal play
- enhances thinking skills and lifelong learning dispositions such as curiosity, persistence and creativity
- enables children to make connections between prior experiences and new learning and to transfer learning from one experience to another
- assists children to develop and build relationships and friendships
- develops knowledge acquisition and concepts in authentic contexts
- builds a sense of identity
- strengthens self-regulation, and physical and mental wellbeing.

Viewing children as active participants and decision-makers opens possibilities for educators to move beyond preconceived expectations about what children can do and learn. This requires educators to understand, respect and work with each child’s unique qualities and capabilities.



Educators' practices and the relationships they form with children and their families have a significant effect on children's participation in early childhood education, engagement in learning opportunities and success as learners. Children thrive when they, their families and their educators work together in partnership to support their learning, development and wellbeing. Relationships are strengthened when educators recognise and affirm children's home languages and cultural identities and when they create culturally secure and safe places for children and their families.

Children's early learning influences their continuing educational journeys. Wellbeing and a strong sense of connection, optimism, resilience and engagement enable children to develop a growth mindset, and a positive attitude to learning.

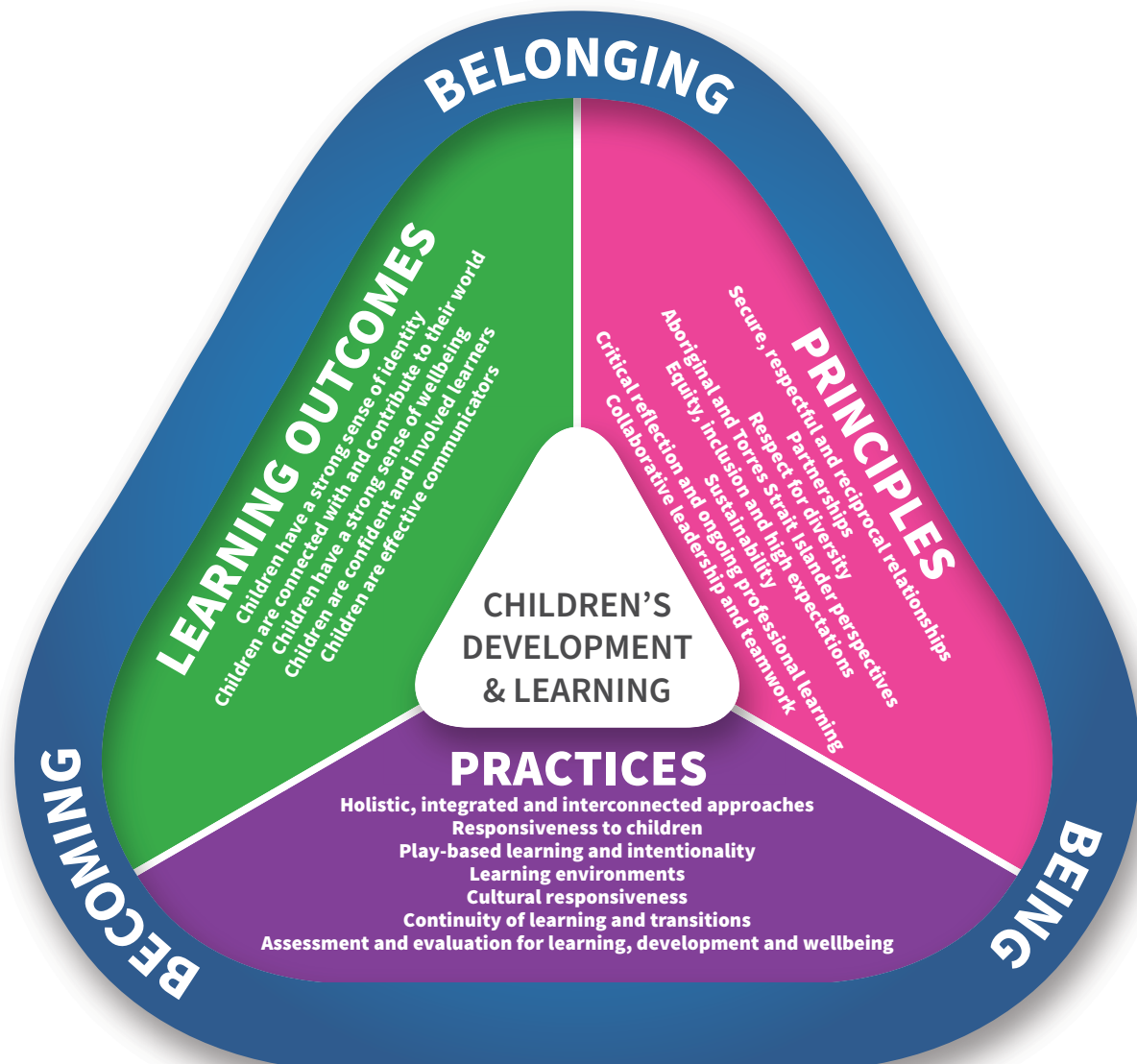
The Learning Outcomes section of the Framework provides examples of evidence of children's learning, development and wellbeing, and the educator's intentional role in extending and enriching children's play, thinking, learning and sense of wellbeing.



# ELEMENTS OF THE EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

**Diagram 1**

This diagram shows the integrated connections of the Vision, Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes that centre on children’s learning, development and wellbeing. *Belonging, Being and Becoming* overlap all these elements.





## BELONGING, BEING AND BECOMING

PRINCIPLES	PRACTICES	LEARNING OUTCOMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Respect for diversity</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives</li> <li>• Equity, inclusion and high expectations</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Critical reflection and ongoing professional learning</li> <li>• Collaborative leadership and teamwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holistic, integrated and interconnected approaches</li> <li>• Responsiveness to children</li> <li>• Play-based learning and intentionality</li> <li>• Learning environments</li> <li>• Cultural responsiveness</li> <li>• Continuity of learning and transitions</li> <li>• Assessment and evaluation for learning, development and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have a strong sense of identity</li> <li>• Children are connected with and contribute to their world</li> <li>• Children have a strong sense of wellbeing</li> <li>• Children are confident and involved learners</li> <li>• Children are effective communicators</li> </ul>

# EARLY CHILDHOOD PEDAGOGY



The term *pedagogy* in this Framework refers to the art, science or craft of educating. It describes the professional knowledge, practices and creativity that educators use to intentionally foster and nurture children's learning, development and wellbeing. When educators establish respectful relationships with children and their families, they are able to work together to use relational and place-based pedagogies that assist in developing curriculum relevant to children in their local context. Using these pedagogies and other child-centred approaches supports curriculum decisions that include children's ideas and reflect their curiosity, allowing them to celebrate their own interests, friendships and express themselves in different ways.

Educators' professional judgements are central to their active role in facilitating children's learning. In making professional judgements, they intentionally weave together their:

- professional knowledge and skills
- contextual knowledge of each child, their families and communities
- understanding that relationships with children and families are critical to creating safe and trusting spaces
- awareness of how their beliefs and values impact children's learning and wellbeing
- knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives
- personal styles and past professional experiences
- use of all components in the planning cycle.

Alongside their professional knowledge educators draw on their creativity, intuition and imagination, including engaging in critical reflection to evaluate and adjust their practice to suit the learners, the time, place and context of learning.



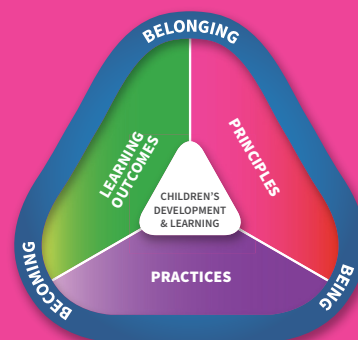
Different theories, world views and knowledges inform early childhood approaches and practices to promote children’s learning, development and wellbeing. Educators draw upon a range of perspectives in their work which may include:

- developmental theories that focus on describing and understanding the influences on, and processes of children’s learning, development and wellbeing over time. For example, attachment theory explains children’s formation of trusting relationships with important adults; social learning theory focuses on how children observe and imitate the behaviour of others; cognitive theory describes thought processes and how this influences the ways children engage with and understand their world
- socio-cultural theories that emphasise the central role that families and cultural groups play in children’s learning and the importance of respectful relationships, and provide insight into social and cultural contexts of learning and development
- practice theories, such as affordance theory that asks educators to think, for example, about the possibilities for activity that the physical environment offers children. The theory of practice architectures invites educators to think about their sayings (understandings of their practice), their doings (the ways in which they practice) and their relatings (how they relate to others in their practice)
- ancestral knowledges are ways of knowing and understanding shared through history and culture, in the written, oral and spiritual traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- place-based sciences that foster community connections in ways that build on local (children, families, communities and educators) funds of knowledge (experiences and understandings) that assist in building thriving learners and communities
- critical theories that invite educators to challenge assumptions about curriculum, and consider how their decisions may affect children differently
- feminist and post-structuralist theories that offer insights into issues of power, equity and social justice in early childhood settings.

Drawing on a range of perspectives and theories can challenge traditional ways of seeing children, teaching and learning, and encourage educators, as individuals and with colleagues, to:

- investigate why they act in the ways that they do
- discuss and debate theories and other perspectives to identify strengths and limitations
- recognise how theories, world views and other knowledges assist in making sense of their work, but can also limit their actions and thoughts
- consider the voices of children, their families and their communities in their decision-making
- consider the consequences of their actions for children’s experiences
- consider who is included and who is excluded or silenced by ways of working
- find new ways of working fairly, justly and inclusively
- consider the ecosystems in which children live and learn.

# PRINCIPLES



The following 8 Principles reflect contemporary theories, perspectives and research evidence concerning children's learning and early childhood pedagogy. The Principles underpin practice that is focused on assisting all children to make progress in relation to the Learning Outcomes. Educators consider ethical, socially just and inclusive principles for children's learning in the early years when they:

- build secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
- develop partnerships
- are respectful of diversity
- embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives
- commit to equity, inclusion and high expectations
- consider sustainability in all its forms
- engage in critical reflection and professional learning
- exercise collaborative leadership and work as a team.

## Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships

Educators who are attuned to children's thoughts and feelings, support their learning, development and wellbeing. Children's first attachments within their families and trusting relationships within other familiar settings provide them with a secure base from which to explore the environment and build new relationships. Children's experience of positive caring relationships and interactions with others plays a crucial role in healthy brain development.

Research has shown the importance of relational and place-based pedagogies for children's optimal learning, development and wellbeing. Through a widening network of secure relationships, children develop confidence and feel safe, respected and valued. They become increasingly able to recognise and respect the feelings of others and to interact positively with them.

Educators who prioritise nurturing relationships through culturally safe and responsive interactions, provide children with consistent emotional support. They value the role of familiar routines and everyday rituals in children's lives, and ensure children develop the abilities and skills, such as self-regulation, and understandings they require for interacting with others. Educators also help children learn about their responsibilities to others, to support their own and others' wellbeing, to appreciate their connectedness and interdependence as learners, and to value collaboration and teamwork.

## Partnerships

Partnerships are based on the foundations of respecting each other's perspectives, expectations and values, and building on the strength of each other's knowledge and skills. Learning Outcomes are most likely to be achieved when educators work in partnership with children, families, other professionals and communities, including schools.



These partnerships recognise the diversity of families and children. In genuine partnerships, educators collaborate with children, families, other professionals, community members and teachers in schools to support children's learning, development and wellbeing.

In genuine partnerships educators:

- value and respect each other's knowledge of each child
- value and respect each other's contributions to and roles in each child's life
- build trust in each other
- act with empathy and sensitivity when children are experiencing adversity
- learn about other ways of knowing, *being*, doing and thinking
- communicate and share information safely and respectfully with each other
- share insights and perspectives about each child with families
- acknowledge the diversity of families and their aspirations for their children
- engage in shared decision-making to support children's learning, development and wellbeing.

Educators recognise that families are children's first and most influential teachers. They create a welcoming and culturally safe environment where all children and families are respected regardless of background, ethnicity, languages spoken, religion, family makeup or gender. Educators, children and families collaborate in curriculum decisions to ensure that learning experiences are meaningful. Educators actively encourage such collaborations.

Ethical partnerships are formed when information is shared responsibly, and educators take safety precautions to ensure children's right to privacy and

protection. Educators know children engage with popular culture, media and digital technologies so they build partnerships with families and others to keep children safe and families aware of e-safety information.

Knowing that some children may not have experienced safe and supportive family environments, educators enact trauma informed practices. In doing so they engage with other professionals to enhance the learning, development and wellbeing of these children and as part of this educators engage in information sharing and record keeping.

Partnerships involve educators, families, other professionals, community members and teachers in schools working together for the best interests of children. These partnerships provide opportunities to explore the learning potential in everyday rituals, routines, transitions and play experiences to ensure active participation and engagement in learning is inclusive of children with diverse backgrounds, family structures and capabilities.





## Respect for diversity

There are many ways of living, *being* and of knowing. Children are born *belonging* to a culture, which is not only influenced by traditional practices, heritage and ancestral knowledge, but also by the experiences, values and beliefs of individual families and communities. Respecting diversity means valuing and reflecting the practices, values and beliefs of families within the curriculum. Educators acknowledge the histories, cultures, languages, traditions, religions, spiritual beliefs, child rearing practices and lifestyle choices of families. They build culturally safe and secure environments for all children and their families. Educators value children's unique and diverse capacities and capabilities and respect families' home lives.

Educators recognise that diversity contributes to the richness of our society and provides a valid evidence base about ways of knowing. For Australian children it also includes promoting greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and *being* and actively working towards Reconciliation.

When educators respect the diversity of families and communities, and the aspirations they hold for their children, they can foster children's motivation to learn and reinforce their sense of themselves as competent learners. They make curriculum decisions that uphold all children's rights to have their cultures, identities, languages, capabilities and strengths acknowledged and valued, and respond to the complexity of children's and families' lives. Educators think critically about opportunities and dilemmas that can arise from diversity and take action to redress unfairness. They provide opportunities for children to learn about similarities and difference and about interdependence and citizenship.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives

Providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to see themselves, their identities and cultures reflected in their environment is important for growing a strong identity. Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all educators' philosophy and practice is a key tool to advance Reconciliation. This also contributes to Closing the Gap commitments and fulfilling every Australian child's right to know about Australia's First Nations' histories, knowledge systems, cultures and languages. Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives is a shared responsibility of approved providers, educators, and other professionals working in early childhood educational settings, regardless of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families are enrolled in that setting.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the longest surviving Indigenous culture in the world and the custodians of this land. Their knowledge systems, traditions, ceremonies, lore and culture have survived for over 60,000 years. Relationships and continual connections to Country and community are at the heart of who they are and the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – past and present – should be acknowledged and valued in children's learning.

Educators think deeply and seek assistance where possible, through engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, about how to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in the philosophy of the setting, their planning and implementation of curriculum. They have a responsibility to create culturally safe places, working in intercultural ways through pedagogy



and practice. An intercultural space is created when educators seek out ways in which Western and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems work side by side.

Educators grow their knowledge of kinship systems and cultural connections in their local communities so they can build engaging reciprocal relationships between services and community. Acknowledging the strengths and capabilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families while supporting wellbeing assists in reinforcing and affirming a positive sense of identity for their children.

The history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is respectfully and truthfully reflected through community involvement and culturally sensitive practices. Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges and perspectives encourages openness to diverse perspectives, enhances all children's experiences and assists in the authentic advancement of Reconciliation. It is a commitment to children learning about what has come before and working together for what is to come.

## Equity, inclusion and high expectations

Educators who are committed to equity recognise that all children have the right to participate in inclusive early childhood settings, regardless of their circumstances, strengths, gender, capabilities or diverse ways of doing and being. They create inclusive learning environments and adopt flexible and informed practices, including making reasonable adjustments to optimise access, participation and engagement in learning. This supports wellbeing and positive outcomes for children in all their diversities. Reasonable



2 Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth) s. 3 (Austl.).

adjustments<sup>2</sup> are the measures or actions taken by approved providers and educators to assist the meaningful participation of children with disabilities or who are experiencing barriers to learning. Educators nurture children's optimism, happiness and sense of fun and support children's friendships and interactions with each other.

Educators engage in critical reflection, challenge practices that contribute to inequities or discrimination and make curriculum decisions that promote genuine participation and inclusion. To support all children's inclusion, they recognise and respond to barriers that some children face, including attitudinal and practical barriers. Such barriers can be related to disability, family diversity, cultural and linguistic diversity, neurodiversity, and children and families living through trauma and adversity.

Educators view all children as competent and capable and hold high expectations for their learning. They strive to provide all children with equitable and participatory environments and experiences to promote their learning, development and wellbeing. In doing this, educators recognise that equitable means fair, not equal or the same, and some children may need greater access to resources and support to participate in early childhood settings. By developing their professional knowledge and skills, and working in partnership with children, families, communities and other professionals, educators continually strive to find equitable and effective ways to ensure that all children have opportunities to achieve Learning Outcomes and flourish.

## Sustainability

Humanity and the planet we share with all living things face some big challenges. Educators and children have important and active roles to play in creating and promoting sustainable communities.

Broadly defined, sustainability spans environmental, social, and economic dimensions which are intertwined. Environmental sustainability focuses on caring for our natural world and protecting, preserving and improving the environment. Social sustainability is about inclusion and living peacefully, fairly and respectfully together in resilient local and global communities. Economic sustainability refers to practices that support economic development without negatively impacting the other dimensions. This includes a focus on fair and equitable access to resources, conserving resources, and reducing consumption and waste.

Adopting this broader definition helps to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In sustainable communities, the requirements of humans, animals, plants, lands, and waters can be met now and for generations to come.

Educators recognise children's avid interest in their world, their ability to engage with concepts of sustainability and their capacity to advocate and act for positive change. Children's agency and their right to be active participants in all matters affecting their lives is supported. Further, children's understanding of their citizenship, and rights and responsibilities as members of local and global communities, is built through meaningful and relevant educational experiences.

Thinking about sustainability means thinking about the future and acting to create healthy, just and vibrant futures for all. Educators encourage children to develop appreciation of the natural world, understand our impact on the natural world, and the interdependence between people, animals, plants, lands and waters. Sustainable practices are created with children and children are supported to take an active role in caring for the environment and to think about ways they can contribute to a sustainable future. Recognising that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have looked after Country for the past 60,000 years, educators and children learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and rich sustainable practices.

Educators provide opportunities for children to learn about all the interconnected dimensions of sustainability, understanding that sustainability goes beyond learning in nature and being involved in nature conservation. Children are supported to appreciate that sustainability embraces social and economic sustainability – as well as environmental sustainability – and to engage with concepts of social justice, fairness, sharing, democracy and citizenship.

## Critical reflection and ongoing professional learning

Educators continually seek ways to build their professional knowledge and skills and develop learning communities. They are co-learners with children, families and community, and value the continuity and richness of local knowledge shared by community members, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders.

Reflection and critical reflection are 2 terms that are often used interchangeably but are different

practices. Reflection involves educators thinking intentionally about their own and others' practices, with certain aims or goals in mind. Critical reflection is a meaning-making process that involves a deeper level of thinking and evaluation. It requires engagement with diverse perspectives such as philosophy, theory, ethics and practice and then evaluating these in context, leading to pedagogical decisions and actions that are transformative. As professionals, educators collaboratively explore, identify and evaluate diverse perspectives with respect to their own settings and contexts. In this way, critical reflection informs future practice in ways that demonstrate an understanding of each child's learning, development and wellbeing, and have implications for equity and social justice.

In practice, educators can frame their critical reflection within a set of overarching questions, developing more specific questions for areas of inquiry.

Overarching questions to guide critical reflection might include:

- What is our understanding of each child, their culture and context?
- What questions do we have about our work? What are we challenged by? What are we curious about? What are we confronted by in relation to our own biases?
- What theories, philosophies and understandings shape and assist our work?
- In what ways – if any – are the theories, knowledges and world views that we usually draw on to make sense of what we do limiting our practice?
- What other theories or knowledge and world views could help us make sense of what we have observed or experienced? What are they? How might those theories and that knowledge affect our practice?
- Who is advantaged/included when we work in this way? Who is disadvantaged, excluded or silenced?

A robust culture of critical reflection is established when educators as a team, as well as children and families, are all involved in an ongoing cycle of review. Current practices are examined, outcomes of those practices evaluated, new ideas generated, tried and tested. This approach supports educators to question established practices and to think about why they are working in particular ways. In such a climate, there is opportunity to engage in deep thinking about pedagogy, equity and children's wellbeing. Educators who are critically reflective are also committed to their own ongoing professional learning and development, actively seeking out opportunities that develop capabilities, as well as



collaborating with their colleagues on aspects of practice in the early childhood setting.

As professionals, educators are committed to lifelong learning and seek out opportunities to strengthen their professional knowledge and skills to support continuous quality improvement in practice. Working in collaboration with colleagues, they identify and negotiate learning priorities, reflect on how they learn best, and look for evidence-informed learning experiences that support deep learning, critical reflection and practice change. Educators recognise that ongoing learning can take many forms. This may include professional learning experiences within settings, for example, professional conversations within teams, coaching and mentoring, professional reading, practitioner inquiry and participating in collaborative research projects. It may also include learning opportunities offered by others, for example, pursuing further study, attending professional conferences and completing professional learning programs. Within early childhood settings, team members share new knowledge and skills gained through professional learning experiences and encourage and support the ongoing learning of others.



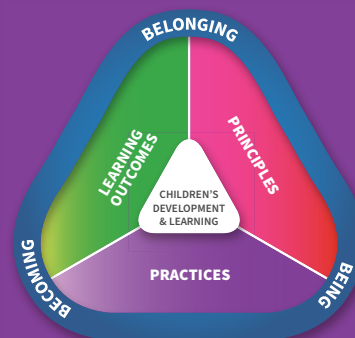
## Collaborative leadership and teamwork

All educators exercise aspects of leadership in their daily work with children, families and colleagues. Educators lead their own ethical practice as they take professional and personal responsibility for their actions and the decisions they make. Collaborative leadership and teamwork are built on a sense of shared responsibility and professional accountability for children's learning, development and wellbeing. It is a view of leadership that empowers all members of the team to use their professional knowledge and skills in ways that assist everyone to do the best they can for children, families and colleagues in their setting.

Collaborative leadership and teamwork are aspects of a positive work culture where a motivation to enact a professional philosophy of cooperation and collaboration enables positive relationships to grow. Children and families are attuned to the work culture of an early childhood setting, which influences their relationships, interactions and experiences within that setting.

Collaborative leadership and teamwork are built on professional and respectful conversations about practice. Educators engage with different ways of thinking and working to critically reflect on their practice both individually and as a team, and contribute to curriculum decisions and quality improvement plans. Children's learning, development and wellbeing is optimised when educators communicate and share ideas and views about improving practice. Collaborative leadership and teamwork support a culture of peer mentoring and shared learning where all team members contribute to each other's professional learning and growth for high quality programs for children in early childhood settings.

# PRACTICES



The Principles of early childhood pedagogy underpin practice. Educators draw on a rich repertoire of pedagogical practices to inform curriculum for children's learning, development and wellbeing by:

- adopting holistic approaches
- being responsive to children
- planning and implementing play-based learning with intentionality
- creating physical, temporal, intellectual, social and emotional environments
- valuing the cultural and social contexts of children and their families
- providing for continuity in experiences and enabling effective transitions
- analysing, assessing, monitoring and evaluating children's learning, development and wellbeing in ways to understand, acknowledge and document children's progress and their achievement of Learning Outcomes.



## Holistic, integrated and interconnected approaches

Holistic approaches recognise the integration and connectedness of all dimensions of children's learning, development and wellbeing. When educators take a holistic approach, they pay attention to children's physical, personal, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and cognitive aspects of learning. They are attuned to children's actions and promote embodied learning, understanding that children's minds and bodies are intertwined in the learning process. In this approach children's voices, actions and movements are important considerations for planning and assessment. While educators may plan or assess with a focus on a particular outcome or component of learning, they see children's learning as integrated and interconnected. They recognise the connections between children, families and communities and the importance of reciprocal relationships and partnerships for learning. They see learning as a social activity and value collaborative learning and community participation.

Educators promote holistic approaches to learning and teaching. They understand the integrated nature of the Framework, and the connection between the various elements of the Framework. The integration of the Vision, Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes are key to providing for children's holistic learning. When planning, teaching and assessing learning, educators engage with all of these elements, thinking about the principles underpinning their practices and the impact of their practices on children's engagement and achievement in learning, development and wellbeing.





An integrated, holistic approach to teaching and learning also focuses on connections to the natural world. Educators foster children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.

### Responsiveness to children

Educators are attuned to, and respond in ways that best suit, each child's strengths, capabilities and curiosity. Knowing, valuing and building on all children's strengths, skills and knowledge strengthens their motivation and engagement in learning. Educators are aware of, and respond to, the strategies used by children with additional needs to negotiate their everyday lives. They respond to children's expertise, cultural traditions and ways of knowing, and the multiple languages spoken by some children, including by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Educators are also responsive to children's funds of knowledge (experiences and understandings), ideas, sociality and playfulness, which form an important basis for curriculum decision-making. In response to children's evolving ideas and interests, educators assess, anticipate and extend children's learning, development and wellbeing via open-ended questioning, providing feedback, challenging their thinking and guiding their learning. Educators are attuned to, and actively listen to, children so they can respond in ways that build relationships and support children's learning, development and wellbeing. They make use of planned and spontaneous 'teachable moments' to scaffold children's learning.

Responsive learning relationships are strengthened as educators and children learn together and

share decisions, respect and trust. Responsiveness enables educators to respectfully enter children's play and ongoing projects, stimulate their thinking and enrich their learning.

### Play-based learning and intentionality

Play-based learning approaches allow for different types of play and recognise the intentional roles that both children and educators may take in children's learning. When children play with other children and interact with adults, they create relationships and friendships, test out ideas, challenge each other's thinking and build new understandings. Play provides both a context (a place or space where children play) and a process (a way of learning and teaching) where children can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking. Play-based learning provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine.

Play-based learning with intentionality can expand children's thinking and enhance their desire to know and to learn, promoting positive dispositions towards learning.

Children act intentionally and with agency in play. This is demonstrated when children make decisions, and with what and with whom to engage and invite into their play. Neural pathways and connections in the brain are stimulated when children are fully engaged in their play as they make plans, create characters, solve problems, develop self-awareness and learn how to socialise, negotiate and think with others. Children's immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy *being*.



Educators are intentional in all aspects of the curriculum and act deliberately, thoughtfully and purposefully to support children’s learning through play. They recognise that learning occurs in social contexts and that joint attention, interactions, conversations and shared thinking are vitally important for learning.

Educators act with intentionality in play-based learning when they, for example:

- plan and create environments both indoor and outdoor that promote and support different types of play for children’s active engagement, agency, problem solving, curiosity, creativity and exploration
- take different roles in children’s play or make purposeful decisions about when to observe and when to join and guide the play
- extend children’s learning using intentional teaching strategies such as asking questions, explaining, modelling, speculating, inquiring and demonstrating to extend children’s knowledge, skills and enjoyment in thinking and learning
- sustain, extend, challenge and deepen children’s ideas and skills through shared thinking and scaffolding learning
- use a range of strategies to plan, document and assess children’s learning in play-based experiences
- plan and implement worthwhile play-based learning experiences using children’s interests, curiosities and funds of knowledge
- assist children to recognise unfair play and offer constructive ways to build a caring, fair and inclusive learning community
- act as resourceful and respectful co-learners and collaborators with children
- support children’s progress in play-based learning through the thoughtful extension of children’s knowledge, skills and concept development
- notice and work sensitively with very young children’s intentions in exploring, practicing and experimenting through play
- acknowledge children’s enjoyment and sense of fun and playfulness in learning, particularly when engaged in group play
- provide a balance between child-led and adult initiated and guided play
- plan opportunities for intentional knowledge building, as well as recognising and utilising opportunities for spontaneous teaching and learning
- use routines, rituals and transitions to foster learning, development and wellbeing
- join in with children’s play experiences, such as taking a role in children’s pretend play, to understand and build on children’s ideas to support and foster learning
- facilitate the integration of popular culture, media and digital technologies which add to children’s multimodal play.

## Learning environments

Learning environments include physical, temporal, social and intellectual elements. Welcoming, safe and inclusive indoor and outdoor learning environments reflect, respect, affirm the identities, and enrich the lives of children and families. Educators plan and provide both active and calming spaces, as well as times in the daily schedule for active and quiet play. They provide individual as well as group spaces that respond to children's interests and capabilities. Environments that support learning are vibrant and flexible spaces that are responsive to the strengths, culture, languages, interests and capabilities of each child, and reflect aspects of the local community. Well planned environments cater for different learning capacities and learning styles and allow for reasonable adjustments where required. Educators also invite children and families to contribute their ideas, interests and questions to create unique and familiar environments. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, these contributions can assist in building an intercultural space where both Western and traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges are shared.

Outdoor learning spaces are a feature of Australian learning environments. They offer a vast array of possibilities for physical activity and learning experiences not available indoors. Access to play spaces in natural environments may include plants, trees, edible gardens, open spaces, sand, rocks, mud, water and other elements from nature. These and other outdoor spaces invite open-ended play and interactions, physically active play and games, spontaneity, risk-taking, exploration, discovery and connection with nature. They foster an appreciation of the natural world and the interdependence between people, animals, plants, lands and waters providing opportunities for children to engage with all concepts of sustainability through environmental education.

Educators where possible participate and offer opportunities for children to learn on Country and seek more information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections and relationships with Country. All children benefit from learning on Country and from Country. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, their spirituality is connected to Country, and the connection is strong. It is in their relationships and how they communicate with their ancestors, families, kinship systems and communities. It is in their connection to the land – the trees, waterholes and mountains.

Indoor and outdoor environments support all aspects of children's learning and invite conversations between children, educators,

families and the broader community. They promote opportunities for sustained shared thinking and collaborative learning. Children should experience sustained, appropriate periods of time in both the outdoor and indoor environment for optimal learning to occur. Approved providers and educators are aware that the accessibility of resources and the way in which learning spaces are set up may enable some children and prevent others from participating. In this way approved providers and educators attend to all aspects of the environment to enable all children to participate, succeed in learning and develop positive feelings of self-worth.

Materials enhance learning when they reflect what is natural and familiar, and introduce novelty to provoke interest and more complex and increasingly abstract thinking. For example, digital technologies and media can enable children to access global connections and resources and encourage new ways of thinking. Environments and resources can also highlight our responsibilities for a sustainable future and promote children's understanding about their responsibility to care for the environment. They can foster hope, wonder and knowledge about the natural world, as well as thinking about social and economic sustainability.

Educators can encourage children and families to contribute ideas, interests and questions to the learning environment. They can support engagement by allowing time for meaningful interactions, by providing a range of opportunities for individual and shared experiences, and by finding opportunities for children to actively participate and contribute to their local community.

## Cultural responsiveness

Educators who are culturally responsive, respect multiple cultural ways of knowing, doing and *being* and celebrate the benefits of diversity. They honour differences and take action in the face of unfairness or discrimination. Being culturally responsive includes a genuine commitment to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all aspects of the curriculum. Being culturally responsive also includes respecting and working collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse children and families. Cultural responsiveness is evident in everyday practice when educators demonstrate an ongoing commitment to developing their own cultural knowledge in a three-way process with children, families and communities.

Educators view culture and the context of the child's family and wider community as central to children's sense of *being* and *belonging*, and their

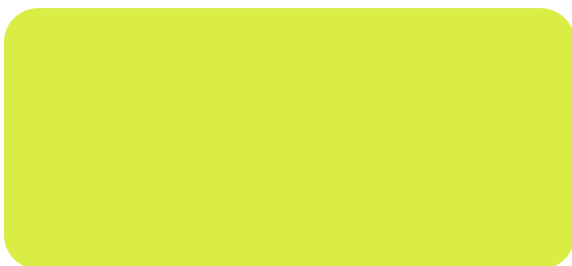
successful lifelong learning. They assist children to be culturally competent and responsive by taking actions in the face of unfairness and discrimination. Educators collaborate with children, their families and members of the community to build culturally safe and secure environments and use this knowledge to inform their practice.

Cultural responsiveness is more than awareness of cultural differences. It includes learning about multiple perspectives and diversity in all its forms, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, family and individual diversity. It is the ability to understand, communicate with and effectively interact with people across cultures. Cultural responsiveness encompasses:

- awareness of one's own world view and biases
- respect for diverse cultures
- respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as the nation's custodians of the land
- gaining knowledge of cultural practices and world views
- communicating effectively and sensitively with people, recognising diverse ways of communicating and interacting across cultures
- everyday practices, including routines and rituals
- decisions and actions that are responsive to children and families' context.

Culturally responsive educators are:

- knowledgeable of each child and family's context
- active in embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all aspects of the curriculum
- implementing anti-bias approaches, including social justice approaches to address racism/bias in the setting/community
- embedding democratic and fair practices in their setting, including the importance of being a responsible citizen
- supporting children to take culturally responsive actions in the face of unfairness/discrimination
- collaborating with colleagues, children, families and their communities to build culturally safe learning spaces.



## Continuity of learning and transitions

Children bring their individual, family and community ways of *being*, *belonging* and *becoming*, often called funds of knowledge, to their early childhood settings. Educators who know and build on children's funds of knowledge help them to feel secure, confident and connected to familiar people, places, events and understandings. This reinforces each child's sense of *belonging*. Children, families, educators and teachers in schools all contribute to successful transitions between settings.

Children's identities change as they move from one setting to another. Educators assist children to negotiate changes in their status or identities, for example, when they move to a new room in their early childhood setting or begin full-time school. As children make major transitions to new settings (including to school) educators from early childhood settings and schools commit to sharing information about each child's knowledge and skills so learning can build on foundations of earlier learning.

Transitions can be everyday occurrences between routines, play spaces or settings, as well as bigger transitions including from home to starting at school or an early childhood setting, or from one early childhood setting to another. All transitions offer opportunities and challenges. Different places and spaces have their own purposes, expectations and ways of doing things. In partnership with children and families, educators ensure that all children have an active role in preparing for transitions. They assist children to understand the traditions, routines and practices of the settings to which they are moving and to feel comfortable with the process of change.

Continuity is where children experience familiar or similar ways of *being*, doing and learning from one setting to another. Experiencing greater continuity assists effective and positive transitions. Educators work with families to promote continuity, for example, knowing about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's kinship connections, parenting practices and other aspects of cultural life can inform positive transitions. Continuity between home and the early childhood setting is important for families as well as children. Continuity in the transition to school can be supported through discussions, access to familiar materials and routines, and timetables that facilitate greeting and departure rituals. Some families and children will need more support when they transition into an early childhood setting or school. Educators work collaboratively with each child's new educator,



teachers in schools and other professionals to ensure a successful transition.

## Assessment and evaluation for learning, development and wellbeing

Assessment and evaluation are part of an ongoing cycle that includes observing, documenting, analysing, planning, implementing and critical reflection. Assessment refers to the gathering of information about children's learning, development and wellbeing, undertaken over time using a range of strategies. Evaluation refers to educators' critical reflection on and analysis of this information, and consideration of the effectiveness of their planning and implementation of curriculum for children's learning. Using assessment and evaluation information, educators in collaboration with children, families and other professionals formulate short- and long-term learning goals for each child.

### Assessment

Assessment strategies are selected by educators for different purposes. Assessment strategies include observations, documentation, reflections and gathering of information about, and with, children and their families. Through assessment, educators describe and interpret children's actions, interactions and communications to consider their achievements, capabilities and wellbeing in relation to the Learning Outcomes. Educators understand the importance of including children's voices and contributions to assessment. Assessment strategies that are inclusive, culturally and linguistically relevant, and responsive to the physical, emotional, social, intellectual and regulatory capabilities of each child will acknowledge each child's abilities, strengths and competencies. Through assessment, educators recognise and celebrate not only the



giant leaps children take in their learning but the small steps as well.

Educators utilise 3 broad types of assessment.

1. Assessment 'for children's learning', also known as formative assessment, is when information about what children know, can do and understand is gathered and analysed to inform pedagogy and planning. Educators use a variety of strategies to collect rich and meaningful information that depicts children's learning in context, describes their progress and identifies their strengths, learning dispositions, skills and understandings. Used effectively, formative assessment strategies can capture the different pathways that children take in their learning journeys and make the process of learning visible to children and their families, educators and other professionals.
2. Assessment 'of children's learning', also known as summative assessment, is when educators review children's achievements and capabilities at specified or selected timepoints, such as during their transition into the early childhood setting, mid-year, or for their transition to school. Educators make professional judgements about children's learning progress over time, to show the 'distance travelled' by learners. In their summative assessments, educators can critically reflect on how children have engaged with increasingly complex ideas and participated in increasingly sophisticated learning experiences.

Summative assessment can also be based on children's attainment of developmental milestones, which can be helpful if educators have a concern about a child's learning abilities or wellbeing. Educators can use such information to start a conversation with families and for potential referral to other professionals for diagnostic assessment.

3. Assessment 'as learning' is used to facilitate children's awareness, contributions and appreciation of their own learning. Children's voices and contributions to assessment can be captured using strategies such as child portfolios or 'talking and thinking floorbooks' to involve children in documenting learning. This allows children to reflect on their learning and develop an understanding of themselves as learners, what they like to learn, and how they learn best.



When children, families and other professionals are included in the development and implementation of relevant and appropriate assessment processes, new understandings can emerge that would not be possible if educators rely solely on their own perspectives. Developing inclusive assessment practices with children and their families demonstrates respect for diversity, and helps educators, families and children make better sense of the assessment information. Assessment undertaken in collaboration with families can assist them to support children’s learning and empower families to act on behalf of their children within and beyond the early childhood setting.

### **Evaluation**

Evaluation practices involve educators’ critical reflection on the effectiveness of their planning and implementation of curriculum for children’s learning as part of the planning cycle, both for and with children. Evaluation practices can also involve gathering feedback from families. Evaluation focuses on improving aspects of practice to amplify children’s learning, such as learning, teaching and assessment strategies, the environment, use of resources or time. Educators’ evaluations and critical reflection can be undertaken through strategies including review and discussion with colleagues, watching others practice, coaching and mentoring and professional journaling.

Educators critically reflect when they pose questions about new ways of thinking and doing in their evaluations, such as: ‘How effective, meaningful, and relevant was the planned

program?’; ‘What difference did we make, and for whom?’ They critically reflect on their own views and understandings of theories, worldviews, evidence-based research, and practice to focus on:

- the experiences, resources, strategies and environments they provide and how these link to the intended Learning Outcomes
- the effectiveness of learning opportunities, environments and experiences offered, and the approaches taken to enable children’s learning
- the extent to which they know and value the culturally specific knowledge about children and learning that is embedded within the community in which they are working
- each child’s learning in the context of their families and children’s funds of knowledge so that the learning opportunities and experiences offered build on what children already know and bring to the early childhood setting
- questioning assumptions and unacknowledged biases about children’s learning and expectations for children
- incorporating pedagogical practices that reflect knowledge of diverse perspectives and contribute to children’s wellbeing and successful learning and is inclusive and appropriate for each child or small groups of children.

Evaluation enables educators in early childhood settings to review how well they are doing, learn from their experience, identify gaps and priorities. Educators consider how they could build on successes and take action to improve their practices.

# THE EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK PLANNING CYCLE

## Diagram 2

The planning cycle describes the process educators follow in planning, documenting, responding to and supporting children's learning. Educators make many decisions about curriculum planning based on their professional knowledge, their knowledge of children and local contexts, and their understanding of the Vision, Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes of the Framework. The steps, sequences and components of the planning cycle that are identified and explained in Diagram 2 can occur spontaneously, 'in the moment', throughout the day or over a period. Educators use these 5 components to inform their thinking about children's experiences and improvement of practice to develop and implement a curriculum that is inclusive of all children. It is important to note that **documentation** occurs at every stage of the planning cycle.





## **OBSERVE / Listen / Collect information**

Educators use multiple sources of information to gather and document different aspects of children's learning, development and wellbeing. This can be undertaken across the whole curriculum and throughout the day, including during routines, planned and unplanned experiences, and interactions with peers, family members and other adults.

Educators observe, listen to, engage with, and are attuned to children's dispositions, curiosity, discoveries, theories, perspectives, knowledge skills, involvement in learning and contributions to their own learning and the learning of others.

Educators knowledge, document and describe children's capabilities and unique ways of belonging, being and becoming ensuring children's and families' voices are sought, heard and included.



## **ASSESS / Analyse / Interpret learning**

Educators draw on a range of sources of information including their professional knowledge and early childhood theories to clearly identify children's strengths and capacities and consider these in relation to the Learning Outcomes and/or other assessment criteria. This includes children's awareness and understanding of their own learning, including the embodied nature of very young children's demonstration of their own learning goals.

Educators draw on their knowledge and the expertise of the children, families, communities and other professionals they work with, to interpret their collection of information.

Educators assess children's learning and engagement in a variety of ways, in the moment and over time, and in diverse context for and with children.



## **PLAN / Design**

Educators' planning is inspired and informed by their thoughtful analysis of the information collected and their documentation. Using this analysis, they plan how to consolidate, enrich and extend children's learning and thinking.

Educators are intentional in their choice of appropriate learning and teaching strategies, content, resources, design of the use of time and indoor and outdoor learning environments.

Educators ensure relational and place-based pedagogies are at the core of planning meaningful learning experiences for children and groups of children. Plans can be jointly constructed in collaboration with children and in partnership with families.



## **IMPLEMENT / Enact**

Implementation is where the plans turn into action.

Educators enact and review their planned learning experiences for individuals and groups of children throughout the day. They extend children's learning during structured and spontaneous adult-led experiences, child-led play, mealtimes and personal care routines, and indoor and outdoor environments.

Educators' intentionality shines within the aspect of the planning cycle, where their learning and teaching strategies, engagement and thinking amplify children's learning.



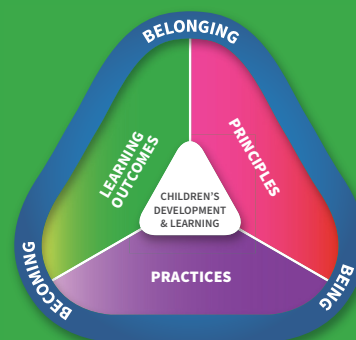
## **EVALUATE / Critically reflect**

Educators use their assessment of, as and for children's learning to evaluate the implementation of plans. Educators consider how meaningful and effective the plans have been for children's learning development and wellbeing, giving considerations to children's cultural and linguistic identities and diverse capabilities.

Evaluation is a time of critical reflection to consider 'What worked well and why?', 'What will I do differently next time?' and 'How can I further extend children's learning?' Critical reflection is a powerful tool for educators to consider the learning possibilities moving forward.

Educators' evaluation also identify areas for information sharing with colleagues and professional learning that will improve curriculum processes and practices.

# LEARNING OUTCOMES



The 5 Learning Outcomes are designed to capture the integrated and complex learning and development of all children across the birth to 5 age range. The Learning Outcomes are:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

The Learning Outcomes are broad and observable. They acknowledge children learn in a variety of ways and vary in their capabilities and pace of learning. Over time children engage with increasingly complex ideas and learning experiences, which are transferable to other situations.

Learning in relation to the Learning Outcomes is influenced by:

- each child's context, including previous experiences, culture, languages spoken, capabilities, emotional wellbeing, dispositions and learning preferences
- educators' practices and the early childhood environment
- engagement with each child's family and community
- the integration of learning across the Learning Outcomes.

Children's learning is ongoing, and each child will progress towards the Learning Outcomes in different and equally meaningful ways. Learning is not always predictable and linear. Educators plan for each child, small and whole groups with the context and the Learning Outcomes in mind. The following Learning Outcomes demonstrate how the 4 elements of the Framework – Vision, Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes – combine to guide curriculum decision-making and assessment to promote children's learning.

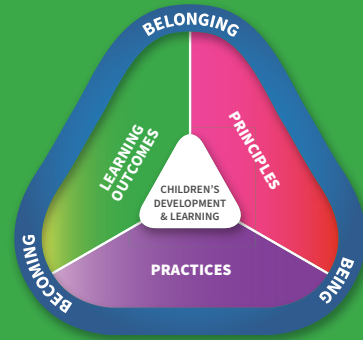
Key components of learning in each Outcome are expanded to provide examples of evidence that educators may observe in children as they learn. Examples of practice to promote children's learning are also included.

There will be many other ways that children demonstrate learning within and across the Learning Outcomes. Educators understand, engage with and promote children's learning. They talk with families and communities to make locally based decisions, relevant to each child and their community.

There is provision for educators to list specific examples of evidence and practice that are culturally and contextually appropriate to each child and their settings.

The 5 Learning Outcomes are relevant for all children. The guidance provides some examples of how educators may work to promote these outcomes and how children's learning may be evident. When using the Learning Outcomes for planning, educators can modify them to meet the requirements of learners in their learning spaces. Approved providers and educators have inclusion obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act* and the *Racial Discrimination Act* and make reasonable adjustments for all Learning Outcomes to ensure learning engagement for all children. It is acknowledged that children come to the setting with different funds of knowledge, skills and dispositions. Very young and older children are growing, developing and learning in individual ways and may demonstrate the Learning Outcomes differently. Educators' knowledge of individual children, their strengths and capabilities will guide professional judgement to ensure all children are engaging in a range of experiences across all the Learning Outcomes in ways that optimise their learning. They are committed to equity, inclusion and have high expectations for every child regardless of their circumstances and capabilities.

# LEARNING OUTCOME 1



## Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

*Belonging, being and becoming* are integral parts of identity.

A healthy identity is the cornerstone to children's learning, development and wellbeing. Children learn about themselves and construct their own identity within the context of relationships with other children, their families and communities. This includes their relationships with people, places and things, and the actions and responses of others. Identity is not fixed and changes over time, shaped by experiences. Children can have multiple identities as they move from one setting to another. When children have positive experiences and can exercise agency, they develop an understanding of themselves as significant, respected and feel a sense of *belonging*. Feeling valued, successful and accepted enables all children to tackle new things, express themselves, work through differences and take calculated risks. Educators are culturally responsive in assisting all children to explore their cultural, social, gender and linguistic identities. Relationships are the foundations for the construction of identity – 'Who I am', 'How I belong' and 'What is my influence?' Relational pedagogy underpins the interactions between educators, families and children and is key to children building a positive sense of self-worth. Children come to know themselves, developing their identity through relationships and interactions with others, engaging in life's complexities and joys, and learning how to meet challenges encountered in everyday life.

In early childhood settings all children develop a sense of *belonging* when they feel accepted, develop secure relationships and trust those who care for them. As children are developing their sense of identity, they explore different aspects of it (physical, social, emotional, spiritual, cognitive) through their play and their relationships and friendships.

When children feel safe, secure and supported they grow in confidence to explore and learn. Identity and confidence are also built when all children are offered genuine choices, time and opportunity to exercise agency, act on their own to increase autonomy, resilience and persistence, as well as interact with others with care, empathy and respect. The concept of *being* reminds educators to focus on children in the here and now, and of the importance of children's right to be a child and experience the joy of childhood. *Being* involves children developing an awareness of their social, linguistic and cultural heritage, of gender and their significance in their world. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, awareness of their kinship networks and connections to Country are important to development of identity.

*Becoming* includes children building and shaping their identity through their evolving experiences and relationships which include change and transitions. Children are always learning about the impact of their personal beliefs and values. Children's agency as well as guidance, care and teaching by families and educators shape children's experiences of *becoming*.

## OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY

- Children feel safe, secure and supported
- Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and agency
- Children develop knowledgeable, confident self-identities and a positive sense of self-worth
- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect

### Children feel safe, secure and supported

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- build secure attachments with one and then other familiar educators
- participate in familiar routines and rituals to make smooth transitions
- sense and respond to a feeling of belonging
- share ideas and information about their culture and cultural artefacts
- seek and connect with adults they trust to share their accomplishments and communicate their needs for comfort and assistance
- establish and maintain respectful, trusting relationships with other children and educators
- openly express their feelings and ideas in their interactions with others
- respond to ideas and suggestions from others
- initiate interactions and conversations with trusted educators
- confidently explore and engage with social and physical environments through relationships and play
- initiate and join in play
- explore aspects of identity through role play
- use home languages
- access resources that support cultural diversity, family structures and gender identities
- describe things that make them unique
- tell stories about their family and culture.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- acknowledge and respond sensitively to children’s cues, signals and home languages
- value and respond sensitively to children’s attempts to initiate interactions and conversations
- support children’s sense of security through consistent and warm nurturing relationships
- give children their full attention, showing interest, understanding and attunement
- design and use routines and rituals to support smooth and effective transitions
- ensure daily schedules, including individualised arrival, departure or sleep rituals that support children’s sense of security
- are attuned to children’s natural daily rhythms to support being and belonging
- learn key words in children’s home languages and use them when greeting and talking with children
- ensure continuity to bridge the gap between the familiar and the unfamiliar, e.g. feeding and sleeping routines
- build upon culturally valued child rearing practices and approaches to learning
- provide a culturally safe place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally diverse backgrounds can share their stories about history and culture

Children feel safe, secure and supported

- are emotionally available, listen carefully and support children’s expression of their thoughts and feelings
- recognise children’s feelings of distress, fear or discomfort and understand that these feelings may take some time to resolve
- acknowledge each child’s uniqueness in positive ways
- provide opportunities to invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators to provide feedback and reflections on assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to feel safe, secure and supported
- interact and converse with each child to establish mutual trust and respect between the families that attend the early childhood setting
- display both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at the setting and discuss their importance for all Australians
- develop inclusive learning approaches that acknowledge different ways of knowing, being and doing
- enable children to see their culture in the environment, e.g. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander art from the local region, cultural events that are significant in the child’s life.

*Add your own examples from your context:*



## OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY

Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and agency

### This is evident when children, for example:

- initiate exploration and independent learning
- show interest and curiosity through observing, listening, selecting and making choices
- demonstrate increasing awareness of the needs and rights of others
- are open to new challenges and discoveries
- increasingly cooperate and work collaboratively with others
- take considered risk in their decision-making and cope with the unexpected
- recognise their individual achievements and the achievements of others
- demonstrate an increasing capacity for self-regulation and self-soothing
- approach new safe situations with interest and confidence
- initiate negotiating and sharing behaviours
- persist and persevere in self-chosen tasks, including when faced with challenges and when first attempts are not successful
- cooperate and participate in routines and rituals
- show initiative by seeking information and asking questions
- learn how to stand up for themselves in appropriate ways.

### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- provide children with strategies to make informed choices about their actions, interactions and behaviours
- promote children's sense of belonging, connectedness and wellbeing
- maintain high expectations of each child's capabilities
- share stories with families including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse families about their child's learning success
- mediate and assist children to negotiate their rights in relation to the rights of others
- provide opportunities for children to engage independently with tasks and play
- display delight, encouragement and enthusiasm for children's attempts
- support children's efforts, assisting and encouraging as appropriate
- motivate and encourage children to succeed when they are faced with challenges
- share stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have shown agency and resilience
- provide time and space for children to engage in both individual and collaborative pursuits
- build on the culturally valued learning of individual children's communities
- share stories that reflect children's cultural and family diversity
- encourage children to make choices and decisions.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

**OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY**

Children develop knowledgeable confident self-identities, and a positive sense of self-worth

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- express and share pleasure and pride in their own efforts, achievements and accomplishments through language, gestures, facial expressions and/or movements
- feel recognised and respected for who they are
- explore different identities, roles and points of view in pretend play
- develop strong foundations in both the culture and language/s of their family and of the broader community without compromising their cultural identities
- reach out and communicate with trusted educators and familiar children for comfort, assistance and companionship
- celebrate and share their contributions and achievements with others
- show curiosity and growing confidence in their identity as a learner
- share information about their family, culture, home languages and aspects that make them unique
- engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and community members to explore their own and others social and cultural heritage
- take calculated risks in play and learning and begin to cope with the unexpected
- display a positive image of themselves, families, culture and community
- acknowledge, share and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions, customs and celebrations
- share their stories about their Country and community
- feel comfortable to use their home language to construct meaning
- feel accepted and affirm their group membership
- share with others how they have learned to use digital technologies
- feel safe to participate in all activities regardless of gender, age, culture or ability
- share spaces and resources safely and equitably regardless of gender, age, culture or ability.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- acknowledge and join in with children’s expressions of pleasure and pride in their efforts and accomplishments
- promote in all children a strong sense of who they are and their connectedness to others – and a shared identity as Australians
- ensure all children experience pride and confidence in their achievements
- describe and share children’s successes with families
- show respect for, and celebrate, diversity, acknowledging the varying approaches of children, families, communities and cultures
- acknowledge and understand that children construct meaning in many different ways
- demonstrate deep understanding of each child, their family and community contexts in planning for children’s learning, development and wellbeing
- provide children with diverse examples of the many ways identities and culture are recognised and expressed
- build upon culturally and linguistically valued approaches to learning
- build on the funds of knowledge, languages and understandings that children bring
- talk with children in respectful ways about similarities and differences in people
- provide rich and diverse resources that reflect children’s social and cultural worlds
- listen to and learn about children’s understandings of themselves
- actively support the maintenance of home language and culture
- develop authentic children’s understanding of themselves
- provide books and other resources that depict diverse gender roles and identities respectfully
- support sharing of spaces and resources safely and equitably
- acknowledge each child’s family, culture and individual uniqueness in positive ways

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Children develop knowledgeable confident self-identities, and a positive sense of self-worth

- support all children to access science and technology experiences safely regardless of gender, age, culture or ability
- recognise disability as a form of diversity and demonstrate inclusive approaches in their interactions with children
- implement approaches to support gifted and talented children
- provide inclusive indoor and outdoor environments that incorporate reasonable adjustments where there are barriers to participation
- have opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationships and connections to Country and family including kinships systems
- support children to identify and assess risks in play and learning and to cope with the unexpected.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY

Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- show interest in other children and their play
- approach and initiate interactions with other children in order to form or be part of a group
- engage in and contribute to shared play experiences
- express a wide range of emotions, thoughts and views constructively
- help and offer care to other children
- recognise and name a range of feelings in themselves and others
- empathise with and express concern for others
- appreciate the need to take turns and wait so that others can have their turn
- co-use and collaborate with others when using digital technologies
- display awareness of and respect for others' perspectives
- display awareness of and respect for children's diverse worlds, e.g. culture, family structure, capabilities and strengths
- reflect on their actions and consider consequences for others
- name and challenge unfair acts, and discrimination on behalf of themselves and others
- listen to others' opinions or points of view
- recognise safe and unsafe situations
- identify trusted adults and friends
- seek help from trusted adults when needed
- express their views
- raise concerns or requests
- participate in discussions and decision-making.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- initiate one-to-one interactions with children, particularly with very young children, during daily routines
- pay attention to, appreciate and acknowledge children's independent efforts to approach and initiate interactions with other children
- organise learning environments in ways that promote small group interactions and play experiences
- facilitate sharing of equipment and turn-taking, being mindful of children's differing capacities to wait
- model care, empathy and respect for children, colleagues and families
- provide a culturally safe and secure environment for all
- provide secure and predictable environments, relationships and engagement in learning to support children affected by trauma
- build awareness of different emotions by modelling and naming feelings
- support children to learn about and recognise safe and unsafe situations
- model how to respond appropriately to unfairness, challenge stereotypes and discrimination in respectful ways
- explain and provide self-regulation strategies using books and pictures of emotional states
- model explicit communication strategies to support children to initiate interactions and join in play and social experiences in ways that sustain productive relationships with other children
- acknowledge children's complex relationships and sensitively intervene in ways that promote consideration of alternative perspectives and social inclusion
- provide opportunities for all children to develop knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture in the context of their community

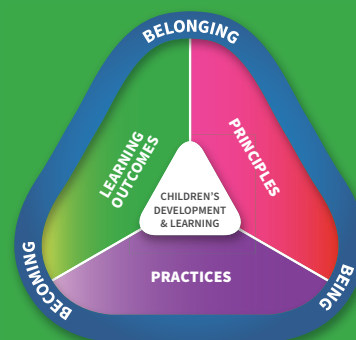
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## Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect

- use a range of teaching strategies and multicultural resources to acknowledge and show respect for differences, e.g. multicultural dolls, books and artefacts
- facilitate child-friendly ways for children to express their views and raise their concerns
- enable children to participate in decision-making that affects them.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

# LEARNING OUTCOME 2



## Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Experiences of relationships and participation in communities contribute to children's *belonging*, *being* and *becoming*. From birth children experience living and learning with others in a range of communities. These might include families, local communities or early childhood settings. Having a positive sense of identity and experiencing respectful, responsive relationships strengthens children's interests, knowledge and skills in being and becoming active contributors to their world. As children move into early childhood settings, they broaden their experiences as participants in different relationships and communities.

Over time the variety and complexity of ways in which children connect and participate with others increases. Very young children participate through smiling, moving, imitating, gesturing and making sounds to show their level of interest in relating to or participating with others. As children grow, they develop more complex ways of connecting and communicating with others. Older children show interest in how others regard them and develop their understandings about friendships. They learn to appreciate that their actions or responses affect how others feel or experience *belonging*. Feelings of belonging strengthen children's connection with and active contribution to their world. Belonging includes people, Country, place and communities where educators assist all children to explore values, traditions and practices of their own and others' families and communities.

When educators create environments in which all children experience mutually enjoyable, caring and respectful relationships with people and the environment, children respond in positive ways. When all children participate collaboratively in everyday routines, events and experiences and have opportunities to contribute to decisions, they learn to live interdependently.

Children's connectedness and different ways of *belonging* with people, Country and communities

helps them to learn ways of *being* which reflect the values, traditions and practices of their families and communities. Over time this learning transforms the ways they interact with others.

Children are increasingly connecting with others through digital contexts. The use of digital technologies and the internet includes sharing and communicating information, enabling children to connect and contribute to their world in new ways. Educators use evidenced-based knowledge to assist children and families in using digital technologies in safe and healthy ways.

Children's connection and contribution to their world is built on the idea they can exert agency in ways that make a difference and build a foundation for civic and democratic participation. Educators assist all children to explore notions of sustainability (social, economic and environmental) where children learn what they do can make a difference. Environmental sustainability focuses on caring for our natural world. Social sustainability is about living peacefully, fairly and respectfully together in resilient local and global communities. Economic sustainability refers to practices that support economic development without negatively impacting the other dimensions. This includes a focus on fair and equitable access to resources, conserving resources, and reducing consumption and waste.

Educators know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are strongly tied to the land and often there are cultural expectations and considerations that may transform the way they interact with others and the environment. Educators are sensitive to this and work to build trusting relationships with families, Elders and communities so that histories, stories, languages as well as the local knowledge of how the Traditional Owners cared for and sustained the land is shared with all children.

## OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD

- Children develop a sense of connectedness to groups and communities and an understanding of their reciprocal rights and responsibilities as active and informed citizens
- Children respond to diversity with respect
- Children become aware of fairness
- Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

Children develop a sense of connectedness to groups and communities and an understanding of their reciprocal rights and responsibilities as active and informed citizens

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- identify themselves as being part of family and community groups
- begin to recognise there is a diversity of cultures, traditions and family structures
- begin to recognise that they have a right to belong and contribute to many communities
- cooperate with others and negotiate roles and relationships in play episodes and group experiences
- take action to include and assist children to participate in social groups
- broaden their understanding of the world in which they live
- express an opinion
- contribute to decision-making and action taking in matters that affect them
- build on their own social experiences to explore other ways of being
- participate in reciprocal relationships
- gradually learn to ‘read’ the feelings and behaviours of others and respond appropriately
- demonstrate a sense of belonging and comfort in their environments
- are playful and respond positively to others, reaching out for company and friendship
- advocate for their own rights with the adults that care for them
- begin to understand and use sustainable practices in their settings and communities across all dimensions of sustainability
- become aware and use the 7Rs of sustainability: reduce, reuse, recycle, respect, repair, reflect and refuse as part of economic and environmental sustainability

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- promote a sense of community within the early childhood setting
- build connections between the early childhood setting and the local community
- create opportunities for open and authentic partnerships with all families, communities and organisations, including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations and those from culturally diverse backgrounds
- provide opportunities for children to investigate ideas, complex concepts and ethical issues that are relevant to their lives and their local communities
- model language that children can use to express ideas, negotiate roles and collaborate to achieve goals
- support and build children’s skills to participate and contribute to group play and projects
- invite grandparents and ‘grandfriends’ to assist in planned experiences such as storytelling, and to engage in play
- plan opportunities for children to participate in meaningful ways in group discussions and shared decision-making about rules and expectations
- investigate and explore cultures, traditions and heritages to broaden children’s understanding of the world
- model practices that create a culture of inclusion and social justice within the setting and community
- challenge children to explore the natural and constructed environments
- investigate the dependence between people, animals, plants, lands and waters

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Children develop a sense of connectedness to groups and communities and an understanding of their reciprocal rights and responsibilities as active and informed citizens

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and diverse cultural community members to explore their own and others' connections to the community</li> <li>• use digital technologies, with assistance, to explore solutions or assistance to community issues.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• build partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations that are genuine and sustainable</li> <li>• build children's awareness of the 7Rs of sustainability: reduce, reuse, recycle, respect, repair, reflect and refuse as part of economic and environmental sustainability</li> <li>• use digital technologies and the internet with children to explore solutions or assistance to community issues.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

*Add your own examples from your context:*



## OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD

### Children respond to diversity with respect

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- show respect for others
- show interest in and explore the diversity of cultures, heritage, backgrounds, traditions and families
- become aware that diversity presents opportunities for choices and new understandings
- become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's kinships systems, their relationships, and connections that they have built with their own community
- listen to others' ideas and respect different ways of being and doing
- practise inclusive ways of being with others and achieving coexistence
- notice and react in positive ways to similarities and differences among people
- become aware of their own and other children's linguistic and cultural events, e.g. Diwali, Easter, Harmony Day, Chuseok, NAIDOC, Sorry Business
- participate in or celebrate community and sporting events such as the Paralympic Games
- investigate other cultures around them.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- reflect on their own responses to diversity
- plan experiences and provide resources that broaden children's perspectives and encourage appreciation of diversity, including disability, family diversity, cultural and linguistic diversity
- expose children to different languages and dialects and encourage appreciation of linguistic diversity
- encourage children to listen to others and to respect diverse perspectives
- demonstrate positive responses to diversity in their own behaviour and in conversations with children
- engage in interactions with children that promote respect for diversity and value distinctiveness
- ensure representations of diversity authentically reflect local community experience, e.g. displays and resources
- explore the culture, language, heritage, backgrounds and traditions of each child within the context of their family and community
- explore with children their ideas about diversity
- ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources are genuine and appropriate
- provide experiences connecting children with the community and environment beyond the early childhood setting with appropriate adjustments to ensure the participation by all children with additional needs/disability
- use creative forms of expression to explore diversity and emotions
- use digital technologies to find answers to questions and document discoveries.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

**OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD**

**Children become aware of fairness**

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- appreciate the connections amongst people
- begin to understand expectations, setting rules and the rights of others
- become aware of ways in which people are included or excluded from physical and social environments
- understand what it means to be treated fairly and to treat others fairly
- develop the ability to recognise unfairness and bias and the capacity to act with compassion and kindness
- make choices and problem solve to meet their needs in particular contexts
- consider and think critically about fair and unfair behaviour
- understand and evaluate ways in which texts construct identities and create stereotypes
- appreciate and respect different ways of knowing, being and doing
- investigate the cultural and linguistic diversity represented in their community through a range of creative expressions
- participate in negotiation of decisions affecting them
- engage with concepts of citizenship, social justice and equity, e.g. taking action to help communities in distress following fires, floods and drought
- show empathy for those unfairly treated.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- notice and listen carefully to children’s concerns and explore diverse perspectives on issues of inclusion and exclusion and fair and unfair behaviour
- provide materials, texts and resources that are inclusive of gender, ability, ethnicity, culture, language and family diversity
- provide equitable opportunities for children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children who have diverse capabilities, to contribute positively to their world
- analyse and discuss with children the ways in which texts may construct a limited range of identities and reinforce stereotypes
- draw children’s attention to issues of fairness in the early childhood setting and community
- build cultural partnerships in their environment
- seek guidance from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and community members about local processes and protocols, history and culture
- provide materials, texts and resources that provide opportunities to analyse and challenge unfairness
- provide clear, accessible information for families and communities about the service’s policies including child safety and wellbeing, Code of Conduct, record keeping practices, and complaints and investigation processes.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD

### Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

#### This is evident when children, for example:

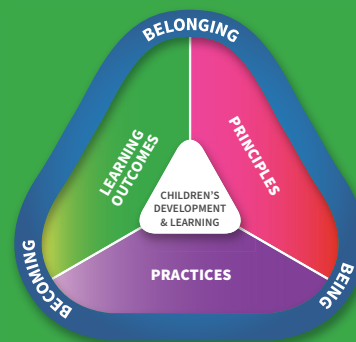
- use play to investigate and explore nature and the natural environment
- recognise they are part of ecosystems and care for local biodiversity
- participate with others to identify and address environmental challenges and problems, and contribute to group ideas and plans
- demonstrate an increasing knowledge of, and respect, for natural and constructed environments
- care for Country and connect with animals, plants, lands and waterways
- learn and use Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander names for the land, local plants and animals
- express their views about important topics and work together to problem solve and enact solutions within their communities
- explore, infer, predict and hypothesise in order to develop an increased understanding of the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals
- develop an awareness of the impact of human activity on environments and the interdependence of living things, e.g. marine debris and potential impact on marine life
- explore the basic needs of living things and how to protect them
- connect through language and culture with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Country
- observe and describe elements of weather and changes in weather and climate
- begin to use local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander names for seasons, e.g. Noongar summer seasons – *Birak* – *First summer* (December–January); *Bunuru* – *Second summer* (February–March); *Djeran* – *Autumn* (April–May); *Makurur* – *Winter* (June–July); *Djilba* – *First spring* (August–September); *Kambarang* – *Second spring* (October–November).

#### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- provide children with access to a range of natural materials in their environment
- model respect, care and appreciation for the natural environment
- find ways of enabling children to care for and learn from the land
- consider the nature of children’s connectedness to the land and demonstrate respect for community protocols
- share information and provide children with access to resources about the environment and the impact of human activities on environments
- embed social, economic and environmental sustainability in daily routines and practices, e.g. inclusion, sharing of resources and reducing waste
- support children to build relationships with each other based on peace, equality and human rights
- look for examples of interdependence in the environment and discuss the ways the life and health of living things are interconnected
- share information and examples of how the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people cared for and sustained the land
- visibly and verbally acknowledge connection of language and culture to Country and Traditional Owners
- provide experiences for children to care for Country and connect with animals, plants, lands and waterways in the local community
- provide children with access to their local outdoor spaces, e.g. local bush, coast, desert etc
- investigate with children environmental challenges and explore solutions to problems using digital technologies and the internet
- provide opportunities for children to learn about the interconnected dimensions of sustainability, e.g. recycling bottles and donating funds to local charities and community groups.

Add your own examples from your context:

# LEARNING OUTCOME 3



## Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Wellbeing incorporates both physical and psychological aspects and is central to *belonging*, *being* and *becoming*. A strong sense of wellbeing strengthens a sense of *belonging* and encourages children to trust others and feel confident in *being*. Wellbeing incorporates feelings of happiness and the motivation to optimistically engage in experiences that contribute to *becoming*. Wellbeing includes physical health, fitness, activity and leisure, nutrition, sleep and rest, feelings of satisfaction and successful social functioning. It influences the way children interact in their environments. A strong sense of wellbeing provides all children with confidence and optimism which maximise their learning potential. Children's positive mental health is assisted and supported by educators and monitored particularly when children are dealing with adversity or trauma.

Wellbeing is related to resilience, providing children with the capacity to cope with day-to-day stress and challenges. Managing emotions, developing self-regulation and building perseverance and persistence are all parts of developing executive function which are higher order cognitive functioning processes in the brain. Children's wellbeing is linked to executive function. The readiness to persevere when faced with unfamiliar and challenging learning situations creates the opportunity for success and achievement.

The connections between children's sensory, physical and motor systems are evident in the early purposeful activities of very young children who coordinate physical, sensory and cognitive actions to explore and learn about their world. Children's growing active physical play promotes strength, coordination and stamina, cooperation and teamwork, confidence, leadership and self-esteem. For children with disabilities, reasonable adjustments may be required. Children's wellbeing can be affected by all their experiences within and outside of their early childhood settings. Educators

are uniquely positioned to observe children's development, interactions and behaviour, to identify any issues of concern, and to take action to support all children's safety and wellbeing. They adopt trauma-informed practices to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children who have experienced adversity. They teach children about body safety awareness using strategies that are age appropriate, respectful of children's cultural backgrounds, and accessible for all children, including those who have already experienced adversity. To fulfil this role, educators adopt a holistic approach to teaching and learning enabling child voice and agency. Educators attend to all children's wellbeing by developing warm, trusting relationships, and providing predictable and child safe environments, affirmation and respect for all aspects of their physical, emotional, social, cognitive, linguistic, creative and spiritual being.

By acknowledging each child's cultural and social identity, and responding sensitively to their emotional states, educators build children's confidence, sense of wellbeing and willingness to engage in learning and interact with others. Responsive connections and the building of relationships and friendships with others are important aspects of wellbeing. Children's developing abilities and taking increasing responsibility for self-help and basic health routines, promote a sense of independence and confidence. Children are aware of the importance of living and learning interdependently with others.

Learning about healthy lifestyles, including nutrition, sleep and rest, personal hygiene, physical fitness, emotions, safe and healthy digital technology use and social relationships, is integral to wellbeing and self-confidence. Physical wellbeing contributes to children's ability to concentrate, cooperate and learn. As children become more independent, they can take greater responsibility for their health, hygiene and personal

care and become mindful of their own and others' safety. Routines and rituals provide opportunities for all children to learn about health and safety. Good nutrition is essential to healthy living and enables children to be active participants in learning. Early childhood settings provide many opportunities for children to experience a range of

healthy foods and to learn about food choices from educators and other children. Physically active play and attention to fine, gross motor, and fundamental movement skills provide all children with the foundations for their growing independence, physical skill, and satisfaction in being able to do things for themselves.

### OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF WELLBEING

- Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing
- Children become strong in their physical learning and wellbeing
- Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety

#### Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- demonstrate trust and confidence in their interactions with others
- remain accessible to others at times of distress, confusion and frustration
- identify and seek out trusted people to communicate what upsets them, makes them uncomfortable or sad
- communicate their physical and emotional needs, e.g., hunger or thirst
- share humour, happiness and feelings of satisfaction
- seek out and accept new challenges, make new discoveries, and celebrate their own efforts and achievements and those of others
- increasingly cooperate and work collaboratively with others
- enjoy moments of solitude
- recognise their individual efforts and achievement
- make choices, accept challenges, take considered risks, manage change and cope with frustrations and the unexpected
- show an increasing capacity to understand, self-regulate and manage their emotions
- appreciate the feelings and needs of others
- experience and share personal successes in learning and initiate opportunities for new learning
- acknowledge and accept affirmation of themselves by others
- assert their capabilities and independence while demonstrating increasing awareness of the needs and rights of others
- recognise the contributions they make to shared projects and experiences

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- show genuine affection, understanding and respect for all children
- are aware and available to provide comfort for children in distress
- support breastfeeding and respond to children's cues for hunger and satiety or sense of fullness after eating
- listen and respond empathically when children communicate their distress, fears or frustrations
- collaborate with children to document their achievements and share their successes with their families
- ensure that all children experience pride in their attempts and achievements
- promote children's sense of belonging, connectedness and wellbeing
- challenge and support children to engage in and persevere at tasks and play
- model positive self-talk to support self-regulation during times of stress
- build upon and extend children's ideas
- maintain high expectations of each child's capabilities
- value children's personal decision-making
- welcome children and families sharing aspects of their culture and spiritual lives to create culturally safe environments
- support families' diverse parenting approaches
- talk with children about their emotions and responses to events with a view to supporting their understandings of emotional regulation and self-control
- acknowledge and affirm children's effort and growth

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## Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• share humour and laughter with others</li> <li>• initiate approaches and actions to interact with other children and form friendships</li> <li>• use positive self-talk when encountering difficulties or setbacks</li> <li>• recognise a range of emotions in themselves and others.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assist children to develop strategies to foster positive mental wellbeing</li> <li>• investigate how physical movement, exercise and healthy lifestyles assist children with mental wellbeing</li> <li>• discuss unsafe situations that would need to be reported to educators and other adults, including signs of children at risk</li> <li>• promote body safety awareness with children and families</li> <li>• help children talk about negative emotions or potentially unsafe behaviours</li> <li>• discuss and model appropriate use of digital technologies and discuss how to keep children safe online with children and families</li> <li>• update their own learning of digital and cyber safety for children</li> <li>• are playful and promote a sense of enjoyment</li> <li>• mediate and assist children to negotiate their rights in relation to the rights of others</li> <li>• create spaces for children to rest and engage in relaxation in indoor and outdoor spaces</li> <li>• support the development of friendships and engaging with peers.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF WELLBEING

### Children become strong in their physical learning and mental wellbeing

#### This is evident when children, for example:

- engage in increasingly complex coordination of body movements with sight, sounds and other sensory stimuli to engage with people and explore materials
- develop movement patterns, mobility and gross motor skills to manage and explore the physical environment
- combine gross and fine motor movement and balance to achieve increasingly complex patterns of activity, including dance, creative movement, drama and fundamental movement skills
- build core strength, physical coordination and stamina
- use their sensory perceptions, physical capabilities and dispositions with increasing integration, skill and purpose to explore and respond to their world, including finding new challenges and risks
- demonstrate spatial awareness and orient themselves, moving around and through indoor and outdoor environments confidently and safely
- manipulate equipment and manage tools with increasing competence and skill
- respond through movement to traditional and contemporary music, dance and storytelling
- move to the tempo and rhythm of music
- participate in physical play, dance, drama
- negotiate play spaces to ensure the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others.

#### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- plan for and participate in energetic physical activity with children, including dance, drama, fundamental movement skills and games
- draw on diverse family and community experiences and expertise to include familiar games and physical activities in play
- use physically active play and games as opportunities for children to develop friendships and turn-taking skills
- provide well-planned and challenging outdoor environments that encourage risk-taking and risky play experiences
- are aware of and address personal preferences that may unintentionally impact best practice for promoting children's physical activity and movement skills
- provide a wide range of tools and materials to resource children's fine and gross motor skills
- provide ample opportunities and resources for gross motor and movement experiences in both indoor and outdoor learning environments
- provide an environment with challenges for the abilities of children
- explore ways of incorporating knowledge of how bodies function and personal safety
- use the dramatic arts and role-play for supporting children's exploration of feelings and opinions.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

### OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF WELLBEING

Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- recognise and communicate their body needs, (e.g. thirst, hunger, rest, comfort, physical activity)
- are happy, healthy, safe and connected to others
- show awareness of healthy lifestyles and good nutrition
- show increasing independence and competence in personal hygiene
- show care and safety for themselves and others
- build strategies to calm the body and mind
- have agency and exercise choice about their sleep, rest and relaxation
- develop a sense of body autonomy and boundaries (e.g. my body belongs to me)
- learn ways to ask for and provide consent during everyday play
- distinguish safe and unsafe touches
- notice and label feelings/emotions in themselves and others
- learn how to tell or communicate to a trusted adult about things that upset them, make them uncomfortable or sad.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- actively support children to learn hygiene practices
- promote continuity of children’s personal health and hygiene by sharing ownership of routines and schedules with children, families and the community
- discuss health and safety issues with children and involve them in developing guidelines to keep the environment safe for all
- encourage and teach children about personal safety including strategies to support children’s and families’ awareness of boundaries
- engage children in experiences, conversations and routines that promote healthy lifestyles and good nutrition
- create a safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to share about their history and culture, songs, language, food, ceremonies and dance, if they choose
- consider the pace of the day within the context of the community
- learn about e-safety for children and embed and model safe digital practices
- discuss aspects of posture, and other health related age-appropriate digital practices with children
- provide a range of active and restful experiences throughout the day and support children to make appropriate decisions regarding participation
- provide ongoing opportunities for children to express their ideas, feelings and emotions through the creative arts
- encourage all children to share their history and culture, which could include songs, language, food, ceremonies and dance
- create culturally safe and appropriate learning experiences and spaces (e.g. reflect children’s cultures in the setting)
- design indoor and outdoor spaces of calm to support self-soothing

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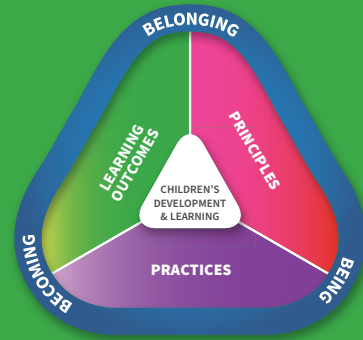


Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• talk with children about the benefits of sleep, rest and relaxation for the mind and body</li> <li>• use flexible approaches to sleep and rest, engaging children in decision-making about their own sleep and rest</li> <li>• assist children with the understanding that feelings can change over time</li> <li>• read age-appropriate children’s picture books with body autonomy and boundary themes, and offer these to families to read with their children</li> <li>• communicate to children that it is ok to say no to touch</li> <li>• listen carefully and take seriously when children talk about things that bother them</li> <li>• help children understand the concept of consent by modelling or demonstrating asking for and providing consent and provide opportunities for children to practice.</li> </ul>
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*Add your own examples from your context:*

# LEARNING OUTCOME 4



## Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

Children's learning is holistic, combining children's sensory perceptions, body movement, actions, thinking and emotions. When children have sound wellbeing and feel safe, they have the confidence to experiment and explore and to try out new ideas, becoming active and involved participants in learning. Children are more likely to be confident and involved learners when their funds of knowledge, and their family and community funds of knowledge (experiences and understandings), are recognised and included in the early childhood curriculum. This assists children to build on what they already know and make connections to make sense of new experiences.

Children use active mental processes such as exploration, experimentation, questioning, collaboration and problem solving across all aspects of curriculum. Thinking and learning are interrelated and developed through interactions and experiences with others, materials, objects and places. Such learning and thinking processes assist in the development of executive function and neuro-connectivity in the brain. Knowing about how their brain works, the language of learning and strategies to develop a growth mindset assist children in life-long learning.

Developing learning dispositions such as curiosity, persistence and creativity enables all children to participate in and gain from learning experiences. Effective learners can transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another and locate and use resources for learning. In a supportive active learning environment, children who are confident and involved learners are increasingly able to take responsibility for their own learning, personal regulation and contribution to the social environment. Children's knowledge expands where educators and children share ideas and knowledge through shared sustained thinking. Connections and continuity between learning experiences in different settings make learning

more meaningful and increase all children's feelings of *belonging*.

Children develop understandings of themselves and their world through active, hands-on investigation. A supportive active learning environment encourages all children's engagement in learning, which can be recognised as deep concentration and complete focus on what captures their curiosity and interests. Children bring their *being* to their learning. They have many ways of seeing the world, different processes of learning and their own preferred learning styles.

Active involvement and engagement in learning builds children's understandings of concepts and the creative thinking and inquiry processes that are necessary for lifelong learning. They can challenge and extend their own thinking, and that of others, and create new knowledge in collaborative interactions and negotiations. Children's active involvement changes what they know, can do and value and transforms their learning and thinking.

Educators' knowledge of individual children is crucial to providing an environment and experiences where all children can participate and will optimise their learning and thinking.

## OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

- Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
- Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
- Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another
- Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

### This is evident when children, for example:

- express wonder and interest in their environments
- are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning
- share their ideas with others and ask questions of adults
- use play to investigate, experiment, test hypotheses, imagine and explore ideas
- follow and extend their own interests with enthusiasm, energy and concentration
- initiate and contribute to play experiences emerging from their own ideas
- participate in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences
- explore diverse ways of knowing, being and doing in their learning
- persevere and experience the satisfaction of achievement
- persist even when they find a task difficult
- use positive self-talk when trying to overcome a problem or setback
- revisit previous learning experiences and plan new challenges
- engage in creative experiences such as art, dance and drama
- positively respond to and incorporate the ideas of others to construct new learning
- use their senses to play, explore and try new things
- talk about what is happening in their brain when they are learning new things.

### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- recognise and value children’s involvement in learning
- provide learning environments that are flexible and open-ended
- respond to children’s displays of learning dispositions by commenting on them and providing encouragement and additional ideas
- model strategies such as positive self-talk to assist children to manage struggles and cope with challenges or setbacks
- provide feedback to children focused on effort and process over outcome or product
- encourage children to engage in both individual and collaborative explorative learning processes
- listen carefully to children’s ideas and discuss with them how these ideas might be developed
- include a growth mindset model in their everyday activities
- find out how to talk to children about how their brains work and how it grows as they learn
- provide opportunities for children to revisit their ideas and extend their thinking
- model inquiry processes, including wonder, curiosity and imagination, try new ideas and take on challenges
- reflect with children on what and how they have learned
- build on the funds of knowledge, languages and understandings that children bring to their early childhood setting

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Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

- explore the diversity of cultures and social identities
- critically reflect on personal responses to cultural diversity that includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
- create responsive learning environments that promote shared sustained thinking.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating

### This is evident when children, for example:

- use trial and error to explore different possibilities through 'cause and effect'
- initiate investigative play to solve self-generated problems and discoveries
- apply a wide variety of thinking strategies to engage with situations and solve problems, and adapt these strategies to new situations
- create and use representation to organise, record and communicate mathematical ideas and concepts
- make predictions and generalisations about their daily activities, aspects of the natural world and environments, using patterns they generate or identify and communicate these using mathematical language and symbols
- explore their environment through asking questions, experimenting, investigating and using digital technologies
- connect with their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (e.g. Elders, role models) to engage with stories about place-based history and culture
- manipulate objects and experiment with cause and effect, trial and error, and motion
- contribute to mathematical discussions and arguments
- use reflective thinking to consider why things happen and what can be learned from these experiences
- develop and test theories to solve problems
- use a range of strategies and digital tools to organise and represent mathematical and scientific thinking
- use a range of media to express their ideas through the arts, e.g. clay, drawing, paint, digital technologies
- engage with culturally relevant objects to test ideas and represent mathematical concepts.

### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- plan learning environments that are flexible, with appropriate levels of challenge where children are encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks in their learning
- recognise mathematical understandings that children bring to learning and build on these in ways that are relevant to each child
- provide resources for very young children to explore the properties of materials through manipulating, rotating, collecting, transporting and positioning
- provide children with resources that offer challenge, intrigue and surprise, support their investigations and share their enjoyment
- provide experiences that encourage children to investigate and solve problems
- use language to describe (verbalise) back to children their investigations and learning experiences
- talk to children about how the brain works
- encourage children to use language to describe and explain their ideas
- provide opportunities for involvement in experiences that support the investigation of ideas, complex concepts and thinking, reasoning and hypothesising
- help and encourage children to express or make visible their ideas and theories to others
- model mathematical and scientific language, e.g. count out loud and point out patterns
- join in children's play and model reasoning, predicting and reflecting processes and language
- intentionally scaffold children's understandings, including description of strategies for approaching problems
- listen carefully to children's attempts to hypothesise and expand on their thinking through conversation and questioning
- provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators to provide feedback and reflect on everyday practices within their setting

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Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating

- ensure documentation of learning is visible to encourage the revisiting of ideas and concepts
- support children’s extended investigations with flexible schedules to allow for multiple solutions and ways of thinking to be explored
- model the use of digital technologies and media to assist children to investigate and document their findings
- use cooking experiences, as well as sand and water play, to support mathematical and scientific skills such as observation, reasoning and measurement.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

### Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another

#### This is evident when children, for example:

- practice and imagine relationships and experiences in their daily lives through pretend or symbolic play
- engage with others to co-construct learning
- develop an ability to mirror, repeat and practice the actions of others, either immediately or later
- make connections between experiences, concepts and processes
- use the processes of play, reflection and investigation to solve problems
- apply generalisations from one situation to another
- try out strategies that were effective to solve problems in one situation in a new context
- transfer knowledge from one setting to another
- use strategies to reflect on and assess their learning and thinking.

#### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- provide play opportunities and realistic materials that reflect children's daily lives
- value signs of children applying their learning in new ways and talk about this with them in ways that grow their understanding
- support children to construct multiple solutions to problems and use different ways of thinking
- draw children's attention to patterns and relationships in the environment and in their learning
- plan for time and space where children can reflect on their learning and to see similarities and connections between existing and new learning
- share and transfer knowledge about children's learning from one setting to another, by exchanging information with families and with professionals in other settings
- scaffold children's understandings of how skills and ideas can be transferred to other activities through conversation and questions
- provide opportunities for all educators to participate in acknowledging Country and how this can be used in different settings
- encourage children to discuss their ideas and understandings
- encourage and enable children to reflect on and assess their learning, including progress and next steps towards their learning goals
- understand that competence is not tied to any particular language, dialect or culture.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- engage in learning relationships with a wide diversity of people
- use their senses and body movements to explore natural and built materials and environments
- experience the benefits and pleasures of shared learning explorations, investigations and imaginary play scenarios
- explore the purpose and function of a range of tools, media, sounds and graphics
- manipulate natural and manufactured materials and resources to investigate, take apart, assemble, invent and construct
- experiment with different technologies
- use digital technologies and media to investigate and problem solve
- explore ideas and theories using imagination, creativity and play
- use feedback from themselves and others to revise and build on an idea
- engage in meaningful conversations about natural and processed materials
- create and construct artwork in a sustainable way using natural and manufactured materials and tools, drawing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories, history, culture, customs and celebrations
- retell or create simple stories using materials or drama to represent ideas
- express and respond to ideas and feelings using a range of creative media including photography and digital technologies
- explore 2D and 3D forms of expression to develop understandings of different artforms and elements.

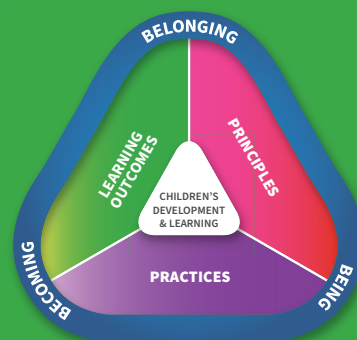
**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- provide opportunities and support for children to engage in meaningful relationships that provide positive learning opportunities
- provide sensory and exploratory experiences with a wide variety of open-ended natural and processed materials
- provide experiences that involve children in the broader community and environment beyond the early childhood setting
- think carefully about how children are grouped for play, considering possibilities for peer scaffolding
- select and introduce appropriate tools, technologies and media and provide the skills, knowledge and techniques to enhance children’s learning
- provide opportunities for children to both construct and take apart materials as a strategy for learning
- develop their skills and knowledge with digital technologies and media in their curriculum to use them confidently with children
- provide resources that encourage children to represent their thinking
- create opportunities to discuss with colleagues the diverse ways of embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into everyday practice
- thoughtfully introduce questions and adopt active listening approaches to prompt problem solving and creative solutions.

*Add your own examples from your context:*



# LEARNING OUTCOME 5



## Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Communication is crucial to *belonging*, *being* and *becoming*. Starting from birth, children communicate with others using eye contact, whole body movements, gestures, sounds, language, digital and assisted communication. They are social beings who are intrinsically motivated to interact, exchange ideas, thoughts, questions and feelings. They use a range of tools and media, including music, dance and drama, to express themselves, connect with others and extend their learning.

Children's use of their home languages underpins their sense of identity and their conceptual development. Children's sense of *belonging* is strengthened when their language, interaction styles and ways of communicating are valued. They have the right to be continuing users of their home language, as well as to develop competency in Standard Australian English.

Literacy and numeracy capabilities are important aspects of communication and are vital for successful learning across the curriculum.

Being literate is the capacity, confidence and disposition to use language in all its forms through written, oral, visual and auditory. Literacy incorporates a range of modes of communication including music, movement, dance, storytelling, visual arts, media and drama, as well as talking, listening, viewing, composing, reading and writing. Active listening and a strong foundation of oral language is key to ongoing and lasting literacy learning. Children enjoy and learn from different texts. Contemporary texts include electronic and print-based media. In an increasingly technological world, the ability to critically analyse texts is a key component of literacy.

Being numerate is the capacity, confidence and disposition to use mathematics in daily life. All children bring new mathematical understandings through engaging with problem solving. It is essential that the mathematical ideas with which

children interact are relevant and meaningful in the context of their current lives. Educators require a rich mathematical vocabulary to accurately describe and explain children's mathematical ideas and to support numeracy development. To build their numeracy, children explore powerful mathematic ideas in their world including spatial sense, geometric and algebraic reasoning, structure and pattern, number sense, data and probability reasoning and measuring, along with drawing connections and argumentation.

Children live in a digital world. They are digitally connected through many devices. Digital technologies offer possibilities for learning, engagement, wellbeing and social connection. Children learn about, and how to use, digital technologies in their relationships with other children and adults. Valuable learning opportunities can be found in children's everyday activities that support shared engagement and learning. All children benefit from opportunities to explore their world using technologies and to develop confidence in using digital technologies and media.

Experiences in early childhood settings build on the range of experiences with language, literacy and numeracy that children have within their families and communities. It extends their social worlds beyond families to include educators, peers and others to support children's everyday interactions. Encouraging children's positive attitudes and competencies in literacy and numeracy are essential for all children's successful learning. The foundations for these competencies are built in early childhood.

## OUTCOME 5: CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

- Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes
- Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts
- Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media
- Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work
- Children use digital technologies and media to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking

### Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- engage in enjoyable interactions using verbal and non-verbal language
- convey and construct messages with purpose and confidence, building on home/family and community literacies
- respond verbally and non-verbally to what they see, hear, touch, feel and taste
- use language and representations from play, music and art to share and project meaning
- contribute their ideas and experiences in play, small and large group discussions
- recount events in their life
- listen to and act upon simple directions
- attend and give cultural cues that they are listening to and understanding what is said to them
- are independent communicators who initiate Standard Australian English and home language conversations and demonstrate the ability to meet the listener’s needs
- interact with others to explore ideas and concepts, clarify and challenge thinking, negotiate and share new understandings
- exchange ideas, feelings and understandings using language and representations in play
- demonstrate an increasing understanding of measurement and number using vocabulary to describe size, length, volume, capacity and names of numbers
- express ideas and feelings and understand and respect the perspectives of others
- use language to communicate thinking about quantities to describe attributes of objects and collections, and to explain mathematical ideas

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- engage in close, confirming interactions with very young children as they use gestures and make sounds to communicate
- are attuned and respond sensitively and appropriately to children’s efforts to communicate
- listen to and acknowledge children’s approximations of words, to support communication and clarify meanings
- value children’s linguistic heritage and with family and community members encourage the use of and acquisition of home languages and Standard Australian English
- value children’s linguistic heritage and with family and community members encourage the use of and acquisition of home languages and Standard Aboriginal English
- encourage children to recount events in their lives
- play games that promote listening and following instructions, e.g. I spy with my little eye
- recognise that children enter early childhood settings having begun to communicate and make sense of their experiences at home and in their communities
- model language and encourage children to express themselves through language in a range of contexts and for a range of purposes
- engage in sustained communication with children about ideas and experiences, and extend their vocabulary
- include real-life resources to promote children’s use of mathematical language

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## Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• show increasing knowledge, understanding and skill in conveying meaning in at least one language</li> <li>• communicate through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander verbal ways of storytelling and yarnning and non-verbal ways of deep listening</li> <li>• begin to recognise the different sounds and words of languages other than English used in homes, early childhood and community environments.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators to share ideas about best practice when embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into planning and practice</li> <li>• provide opportunities for children to recognise the different sound and words of languages other than English</li> <li>• provide opportunities for visual communication such as signing.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

*Add your own examples from your context:*

**OUTCOME 5: CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS**

**Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts**

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- listen and respond to sounds and patterns in speech, stories and rhymes in context
- view and listen to printed, visual and multimedia texts and respond with relevant gestures, actions, comments and/or questions
- sing and chant rhymes, jingles and songs
- take on roles of literacy and numeracy users in their play
- begin to understand key literacy and numeracy concepts and processes, such as the sounds of language, letter-sound relationships, concepts of print and the ways that texts are structured
- explore texts from a range of different perspectives and begin to analyse the meanings
- actively use, engage with and share the enjoyment of language and texts in a range of ways
- recognise and engage with written and oral culturally constructed texts
- listen to and discuss stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture, ways of sustainability and care, customs and celebrations
- retell simple stories in a logical sequence using a range of material and expressive forms, e.g. blocks, dramatic play
- engage in pretend play that draws on the use of digital technologies.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- read and share a range of books and other texts with children
- provide a literacy-enriched environment including display print in home languages and Standard Australian English
- sing and chant rhymes, jingles and songs
- engage children in play with words and sounds
- explore concepts such as rhyme and letters and sounds when sharing texts with children
- incorporate familiar family and community texts and tell stories
- join in children’s play and engage children in conversations about the meanings of images and print
- engage children in discussions about books and other texts that promote consideration of diverse perspectives
- support children to analyse ways in which texts are constructed to present particular views and to sell products
- teach art as language and how artists can use the elements and principles to construct visual/musical/dance/media texts
- provide opportunities for children to engage with familiar and unfamiliar culturally constructed text
- seek Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander guidance to ensure that the authentic voices of Traditional Owners, Elders and community members are highlighted in planning and practice
- engage in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led professional development about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of learning, e.g. 8 ways and both ways pedagogy.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 5: CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

### Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media

#### This is evident when children, for example:

- use language, sounds, gestures and movement to engage in play to imagine and create roles, scripts and ideas
- share the stories and symbols of their own culture and re-enact well-known stories
- use materials to create art works (e.g. such as drawing, painting, sculpture, drama, dance, movement, music and storytelling) to express ideas and make meaning
- experiment with ways of expressing ideas and meaning using a range of media
- begin to use images and approximations of letters and words to convey meaning
- enjoy engaging with and sharing a wide variety of cultural texts including those authored by Traditional Owners
- display literacy behaviours by incorporating reading and writing approximations and viewing in their play (including digital technologies)
- view, listen and respond to simple printed, visual and multimedia texts or music and express how it makes them feel
- use simple tools and techniques to shape, assemble and join materials they are using
- explore a range of materials and their properties.

#### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- build on children's family and community experiences with creative and expressive arts
- provide a range of resources that enable all children to express meaning through the Arts, including visual arts, dance, drama and music
- ask and answer questions during the reading or discussion of books and other texts
- provide resources that encourage children to experiment with images and print
- teach children skills and techniques that will enhance their capacity for self-expression and communication
- join in children's play and co-construct materials such as signs that extend the play and enhance literacy learning
- respond to children's images and symbols, talking about the elements, principles, skills and techniques they have used in order to convey meaning
- critically reflect on how they are embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and voices into every part of their planning and their setting
- use a range of questioning strategies appropriate to each child's capabilities to gain insight into their thinking
- provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children opportunities to communicate how they are feeling through writing, the Arts, and construction.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

**OUTCOME 5: CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS**

**Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work**

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- use symbols in play to represent and make meaning
- begin to make connections between and see patterns in their feelings, ideas, words and actions and those of others
- notice and predict the patterns of regular routines and the passing of time
- develop an understanding that symbols are a powerful means of communication, and that ideas, thoughts and concepts can be represented through them
- begin to be aware of the relationships between oral, written and visual representations
- begin to recognise patterns and relationships and the connections between them
- begin to sort, categorise, order and compare collections and events and attributes of objects and materials in their social and natural worlds
- begin to identify and use the names of basic colours and simple shapes
- listen and respond to sounds and patterns in speech, stories and rhyme
- draw on memory of a sequence to complete a task
- draw on their experiences in constructing meaning using symbols
- identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander signs and symbols relevant to their area and investigate and begin to recognise with assistance representations of stereotypes or narrow depictions of diversity
- begin to identify the different purposes of text types, e.g. environmental print, informational texts, narratives
- use mark-making and drawing as symbols of communication.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- draw children’s attention to symbols and patterns in their environment and talk about patterns and relationships, including the relationship between letters and sounds
- provide children with access to a wide range of everyday materials that they can use to create patterns and to sort, categorise, order and compare
- engage children in noticing, using and discussing symbol systems, such as, letters, numbers, time, money, musical notation and other symbols children are exposed to in the environment, texts and images
- encourage children to develop their own symbol systems and provide them with opportunities to explore culturally constructed symbol systems including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander signs and symbols
- respond to children’s signs and symbol systems and identify elements used to convey meaning
- identify concepts of rhyme and predictable sequences when sharing texts with children
- use music to develop children’s understandings of patterns, e.g. clapping names
- incorporate familiar family and community texts as well as those in different languages and dialects
- scribe descriptions of children’s drawings and display results for comment and reflection.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 5: CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

Children use digital technologies and media to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- identify technologies and their use in everyday life
- incorporate real or imaginary technologies as features of their play
- use digital technologies to access images and information, explore diverse perspectives and make sense of their world
- develop simple skills to operate digital devices, such as turning on and taking a photo with a tablet
- use digital technologies and media for creative expression (e.g. designing, drawing, composing)
- engage with technologies and media for fun and social connection
- identify basic icons and keys (e.g. delete button) and use them to support their navigation (e.g. click, swipe, home, scroll) and understand these terms
- adopt collaborative approaches in their learning about and with digital technologies.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- acknowledge technologies are a feature of children's lives and, as such, will be a feature of their imaginative and investigative play
- provide children with access to a range of technologies
- integrate technologies across the curriculum and into children's multimodal play experiences and projects
- teach skills and techniques and encourage children to use technologies to explore new information and represent their ideas
- encourage collaborative learning about and through technologies between children, and children and educators
- provide opportunities for children to have access to different forms of communication technologies
- research topics and search for information with children
- teach children critical reflection skills and encourage them to evaluate the quality and trustworthiness of information sources
- have opportunities to develop their own knowledge and understanding of appropriate digital technology use and safety with children and families
- assist children to have a basic understanding that the internet is a network that people use to connect and source information.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Active citizenship:** is about displaying values of respect, inclusion and helping others, as well as appreciating diversity in all its forms. It involves helping out and being connected to your local community. (Adapted from being an active citizen, Australian Government 2022).

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**Active learning environment:** an active learning environment is one in which children are encouraged to explore and interact with the environment to make (or construct) meaning and knowledge through their experiences, social interactions and negotiations with others. In an active learning environment, educators play a crucial role of encouraging children to discover deeper meanings and make connections among ideas and between concepts, processes and representations. This requires educators to be engaged with children's emotions and thinking. (Adapted from South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework, General introduction).

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**Active listening:** is concentrating on more than what is being said (such as gestures, facial expression and body language) and involves listening to and acknowledging what is being said in ways that enhance mutual understanding.

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**Additional needs:** the term used for children who require or will benefit or be able to participate more fully from specific considerations, adaptations or differentiation of any aspects of the curriculum, including resources and the environment.

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**Agency:** being able to make choices and decisions, to influence events and to have an impact on one's world.

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**Argumentation:** the process that allows children to justify their own thinking and to understand that of other people.

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**Assessment:** **Formative assessment** refers to educators' collection of formal or informal assessment information during children's learning experiences in order to inform or modify teaching strategies and learning experiences to support and improve learning outcomes. **Summative assessment** refers to educators' use of specific criteria to evaluate learning outcomes, skill acquisition or academic achievements at the end of a defined period, such as the completion of a project or the end of the preschool year. Diagnostic assessment processes also use specific criteria, but as a 'pre-assessment' allows educators to determine children's individual strengths, knowledge and skills. **Diagnostic assessment** also refers to formal assessment processes used to diagnose learning or wellbeing difficulties undertaken by health professionals. **Developmental screening** refers to the use of formal questionnaires or checklists by health professionals or educators with specialist training to identify any concerns and determine if further developmental evaluation or diagnosis are recommended.

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**Attachment relationships:** refers to the relationship bond a child forms with their primary caregivers, which in early childhood settings include familiar educators. Attachment relationships provide the child with a secure base from which to explore and, when necessary, as a haven of safety and a source of comfort.

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**Attuned/Attunement:** is being fully aware and responsive to children, comprehending their feelings and embodied communication such as through their facial expression, vocalisations, body movements, gestures and eye contact.

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**Children:** refers to all children from birth to age 5 years. In the EYLF, the term ‘very young children’ is used to refer to infants under 2 years and ‘older children’ to refer to children approaching the transition to school. Children are viewed as individuals and as members of a group in the early childhood setting.

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**Children living with disability:** disability is part of human diversity. There are many different kinds of disability and they can result from accidents, illness or genetic disorders. Disability may affect mobility, ability to learn, ability to communicate, or ability to engage with others and with experiences. Some children may have more than one type of disability. A disability may be visible or hidden, may be permanent or temporary and may have minimal or substantial impact on a child’s abilities.

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**Citizens:** participating members of local, national, and global communities.

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**Citizenship:** means being a member of and supporting one’s community including the early childhood setting, as well as the local and global community. Citizenship involves a range of key components such as opportunities for belonging and participation, contributing to decision-making and taking responsibility for actions to others and to the environment.

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**Co-construct:** learning takes place as children interact with educators and other children as they work together in partnership.

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**Collaboration:** involves working together cooperatively towards common goals. Collaboration is achieved through information sharing, joint planning and the development of common understandings and objectives.

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**Community participation:** taking an active role in contributing to communities.

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**Communities:** social, cultural or geographic contexts, groups or networks that share a common purpose, heritage, rights and responsibilities and/or other bonds. ‘Communities’ is used variously to refer, for example, to the community within early childhood settings, extended kinships, the local geographic community and broader Australian and global society.

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**Connections:** learning in one area is related to learning in other areas and to the contexts in which the child is experiencing it. For example, learning in one area of mathematics can be relevant to learning in another area of mathematics.

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**Critical reflection:** is a meaning-making process that assists informing future practice in ways that demonstrate an understanding of each child’s learning, development and wellbeing and implications for equity and social justice. It involves examining and analysing events, experiences and practices from a range of perspectives to inform future planning and decision-making.

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**Cultural responsiveness:** is a contemporary way to think about culture and enables individuals and organisations to be respectful of everyone’s backgrounds, beliefs, values, customs, knowledges, lifestyles and social behaviours. Being culturally responsive includes a genuine commitment to take action against discrimination in any form, embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all aspects of the curriculum and working collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse children and families.

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**Cultural safety:** recognition, respect and protection of the inherent rights, cultures, and traditions of a particular culture. In a culturally safe environment, there is “no assault, challenge or denial of their people’s identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience, of learning, living and working together with dignity and truly listening”. (Williams 2008).

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**Curriculum:** in the early childhood setting curriculum includes all the interactions, experiences, activities, routines and events, planned and unplanned, that occur in an environment designed to foster children’s learning, development and wellbeing. (Adapted from Te Whariki, NZ Ministry of Education 2017).

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**Development:** refers to the sequence of physical, language, cognitive, emotional and social changes that occur in a child from birth through to adulthood. Development and learning are dynamic processes that reflect the complex interplay between a child’s heredity, biological characteristics and the environment, which includes family, friends, communities and early childhood settings.

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**Digital technology:** “First developed in the 1960s with the advent of microprocessors or small ‘chips’ that convert information into numbers, digital technology enables large amounts of data to be stored and shared so that it can be accessed, created and used by people anywhere, at any time”. (ECA 2018, p. 23).

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**Early childhood settings:** long day care, occasional care, family day care, Multi-purpose Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Services, preschools and kindergartens, playgroups, creches, early intervention settings and similar services. Early childhood settings include home-based settings, centre-based settings, schools and community settings.

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**Educators:** early childhood teachers, educators and support workers who work directly with children to promote learning, development and wellbeing in early childhood settings.

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**Engagement:** associated with attention, curiosity, interest, optimism and active involvement in learning. Engagement amplifies motivation, a sense of success, relationship building and risk-taking in learning.

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**Evaluation:** educators' critical reflection on and analysis of this information, and consideration of the effectiveness of their planning and implementation of curriculum for children's learning, development and wellbeing.

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**Executive function:** includes working memory, flexible thinking and self-control. Executive functioning refers to the mental processes in the brain that enable children to plan, focus attention, remember instructions and manage multiple tasks successfully.

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**Fundamental Movement Skills:** are basic movements associated with Locomotor skills, such as jumping, running, galloping, leaping, hopping and side-sliding; Manipulative skills, such as catching, underarm rolling, dribbling, striking, kicking and throwing; and Stability skills, such as balancing, stretching and twisting (NSW Ministry of Health 2017).

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**Funds of knowledge:** are the historically accumulated experiences and understandings that an individual has and includes abilities, skills, bodies of knowledge, life experiences and cultural ways of interacting. A child's funds of knowledge are often described as a "virtual backpack" of all the life experiences and knowledge they bring into the early childhood setting.

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**Growth mindset:** is where individuals believe their intelligence and abilities can be improved by effort and actions. This is a necessary part of becoming an effective learner and can create a love of learning and understanding that persistence with increased motivation and effort leads to improvement.

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**Inclusion:** involves taking into account all children's social, cultural and linguistic diversity (including learning styles, abilities, disabilities, gender, sexual identity, family circumstances and geographic location) in curriculum decision-making processes. The intent is to ensure that all children's experiences are recognised and valued. The intent is also to ensure that all children have equitable access to resources and participation, and opportunities to demonstrate their learning and to value difference.

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**Intentionality:** is being thoughtful and purposeful in actions and making decisions and is something that both children and educators can do. Children are intentional in their thinking, ways of communication and learning and at times lead their own learning and the learning of others. Educators are intentional in the roles they take in children's play and the way they intentionally plan the environment and curriculum experiences.

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**Intercultural:** is something that is shared between cultures. An intercultural space is a place where people of different cultures all feel equally welcome, acknowledged and different ways of knowing, being and doing are respected.

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**Joint attention:** is when a child coordinates their focus of attention with that of another child or educator in order to interact with each other. Joint attention involves 2 or more people paying attention to the same thing such as an object, event or experience. It requires the ability to gain, maintain and shift attention which are important aspects for learning.

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**Kinships systems:** a kinship system is an aspect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social organisation. It is a complex system that determines the relationships, roles, responsibilities, and obligations to one another and includes ceremonial business around land, lore, births, marriages and deaths. There are different structures and relationships that are not necessarily biological and covers more than people. Kinship includes a connection to Country: animals, places, ancestors, weather systems and plants.

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**Language and Literacy:** in the early years, literacy includes a range of modes of communication including music, movement, gesture, dance, song, drama, storytelling, visual arts, digital literacies, and media, as well as listening, talking, signing, viewing, reading and writing.

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**Learning:** is the process of gaining knowledge, skills and dispositions and from birth children naturally use exploration to expand their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and creative capacities. Life-long learning is acknowledged as a self-motivated process that extends intellectual, vocational and personal horizons which begins in early childhood and is continued throughout life.

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**Learning dispositions:** habits of mind that affect how children approach learning. These include persistence and a positive attitude towards tasks; motivation, associated with enthusiasm and engagement; flexibility, associated with consideration of multiple points of view and ways of thinking; problem solving and questioning, associated with posing problems and questions, and making causal connections between people, events and situations.

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**Learning framework:** a guide which provides a vision for learning, pedagogical principles, practices and general goals or outcomes for children's learning and how they might be attained. It provides a scaffold to assist educators to develop their own, more detailed curriculum relevant to their setting and the children and families attending.

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**Learning outcome:** a skill, knowledge or disposition that educators can actively promote in early childhood settings, in collaboration with children and families.

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**Learning relationships:** relationships that further children's learning, development and wellbeing. Both the adult and the child have intent to learn with and from each other.

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**Leisure:** in an early learning childhood setting is generally connected with concepts such as free time, fun and being with friends. Leisure and learning are intrinsically linked and contribute to overall wellbeing.

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**Mathematics and numeracy:** broadly includes understandings about numbers, patterns, measurement, time, spatial awareness and chance, and data, as well as mathematical thinking, reasoning and counting.

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**Multimodal play:** modes are ways or means of communicating meaning in some way so multimodal play is about children and educators using the many different types of resources and materials around them that can potentially be a mode to communicate and make meaning.

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**Neurodiversity:** is the diversity of human minds. It describes the range of differences in individual brain functioning and behaviour, regarded as part of the variance in human populations.

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**Neuroscience:** is a multidisciplinary science that is concerned with the study of the structure and function of the nervous system including the brain and its impact on behaviour and or how children and young people think.

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**Pedagogy:** is the art, craft and science of educating. Pedagogy is the foundation for educators' professional practice, especially those aspects that involve building and nurturing relationships, curriculum decision-making, teaching and learning.

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**Place-based pedagogy:** a pedagogy refers to an understanding that educator knowledge of the setting or context will influence how educators plan and practice. This pedagogical approach is particularly important to Aboriginal and Torres Islander peoples and their connection to land and places should be explored with local Elders and community members in culturally responsive ways.

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**Play:** is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities. It is often defined by a range of characteristics including freely chosen, self-directed, pleasurable, meaningful, symbolic and intrinsically motivating.

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**Play-based learning:** a context and a process for learning through which children organise and make sense of their social worlds, as they engage actively with people, objects and representations.

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**Reasonable adjustment:** a measure or action taken by approved providers and educators to assist children with disability to participate in education and care on the same basis as children without disability. An adjustment is reasonable if it achieves this purpose while balancing the interests of all parties affected, including the child with disability, the approved provider, educators and other children (Australian Government, 2005).

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**Reconciliation:** "At its heart, Reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians." (<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation/what-is-reconciliation/>)

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**Relational pedagogy:** underpins the ways in which educators build trusting respectful relationships between children, families, other educators, and professionals as well as members of the community.

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**Routines:** regular, everyday events in early childhood settings such as mealtimes, sleep/rest times, group times, getting ready for outdoor play, nappy change/toileting, hygiene, arrivals and departures. Routines are a key component of the curriculum/program. Effective routines provide children with a sense of predictability and consistency that help children to feel safe, secure and supported.

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**Rituals:** educators develop rituals to embed daily events and to enhance predictability and support the familiarity of routines and transitions. Rituals can also ease emotionally challenging events, such as arrival where a ritual for individual children may be developed in partnership with families.

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**Satiety:** being satisfied after eating, that feeling of being full.

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**Scaffold:** the educators' decisions and actions that build on children's existing knowledge and skills to enhance their learning, development and wellbeing.

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**Self-regulation:** the ability to manage energy states, emotions, behaviour and attention; the ability to return to a balanced, calm and constant state of being. Self-regulation is a key factor for mental health, wellbeing and learning.

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**Shared sustained thinking:** results when 2 or more individuals (often adults and children) work together in an intellectual way to solve a problem, clarify a concept or evaluate activities (Siraj-Blatchford et al. 2003, p. 11).

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**Sociality:** is a term used to describe how individuals interact with one another. It is different to the term *social development*, which refers to how sociality changes over time and the process through which a child learns to interact with others around them.

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**Spiritual:** refers to a range of human experiences including a sense of awe and wonder, or peacefulness, and an exploration of being and knowing.

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**Sustainability:** seeking to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations (*Brundtland Report 1987*). Contemporary understandings of sustainability span environmental, social and economic dimensions. **Environmental sustainability** focuses on helping children to recognise they are part of ecosystems and have a role to play in preserving, protecting and improving the environment. **Social sustainability** addresses issues of social justice and equity, respect for diversity and inclusion, active citizenship and sense of community. **Economic sustainability** focuses on fair and equitable access to resources, conserving resources and reducing consumption and waste. The 3 dimensions are interconnected and necessary for a sustainable world.

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**Technologies:** includes much more than computers and digital technologies used for information, communication and entertainment. It involves the development of new objects or tools by people that help them in their lives. There are 3 broad types of technology: mechanical (e.g. wheels, blocks, levers and gears) analogue technology (e.g. film-based photography, drawing, painting); and digital technology (e.g. mobile phones and computers) (ECA 2018).

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**Temporal environment:** refers to the timing, sequence and pace of routines and activities that take place throughout the day.

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**Texts:** things that we read, view and listen to and that we create in order to share meaning. Texts can be print-based, such as books, magazines and posters or screen-based, such as internet sites and Apps. Many texts are multimodal, integrating images, written words and/or sound.

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**Theories:** a set of ideas to explain concepts or practice.

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**Transitions:** major transitions occur at times of significant change, such as when children first attend early childhood education and care or start school, when the child takes on a new role or becomes part of a new social group. Everyday transitions occur as a regular part of a child's day or week as they move from one setting to another, such as home to preschool or between different early childhood settings. Transitions also occur within settings, and include changes from one activity to another, from one educator to another, from indoor to outdoor play spaces, and transitioning to and from meal and sleep times (Harrison 2016).

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**Trauma:** children may be exposed to 4 different types of trauma: (1) **Single incident trauma** which can result from experiencing a time-limited and often unexpected traumatic event (e.g. a car accident, bushfire, loss of a loved one); (2) **Complex trauma** which can result from exposure to severe, sustained and harmful interpersonal events (e.g. physical, emotional or sexual abuse, profound neglect, domestic and family violence); (3) **Historical trauma** which refers to multigenerational trauma experienced by a specific cultural group (e.g. the intergenerational impacts of the European colonisation and forced removal of children from families and communities on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities); (4) **Intergenerational trauma** which can result when unresolved complex trauma impacts on the next generation's capacity to parent and leads to intergenerational harm. When exposed to traumatic events at a young age, children may not have developed or will have lost their sense of safety, trust and belonging.

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**Trauma informed practice:** responsive practice made possible by awareness of the impact of trauma on children's learning, development and wellbeing. This includes recognising the signs and symptoms of trauma in children, responding by making places and relationships feel safe and supportive to children, and helping children to develop their capacity for emotional regulation.

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**Wellbeing:** sound wellbeing results from the satisfaction of basic needs including physical, social-emotional and mental health. Laevers (1994) suggests the need for tenderness and affection; security and clarity; social recognition; to feel competent; physical needs and for meaning in life. Wellbeing includes happiness and satisfaction, effective social functioning and the dispositions of optimism, openness, curiosity and resilience.

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