

National Quality Standard



Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority

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Educational program and practice

A program helps each child to learn and develop. Experiences stimulate and engage each child.

Examples of what to look for:

- Your child's interests and ideas are included in the program.
- Your child is supported by educators to participate in play and learning.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

High quality education and care gives children the best start in life

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Children's health and safety

Your child's safety and health are important all day, every day. Your child will be safely supervised and will feel secure.

Examples of what to look for:

- Your child's service takes precautions to protect children from illness and hazards.
- Food and drinks provided by the service are nutritious and appropriate for children.

Families can be confident that their children are in safe and healthy environments

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Physical environment

Indoor and outdoor spaces allow your child to play, learn and develop their skills.

Examples of what to look for:

- Outdoor and indoor spaces are welcoming and suitable for children.
- Buildings, furniture, equipment and resources are safe and well-maintained.
- Children can participate in a range of experiences.

Play and learning help develop skills for life

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Staffing arrangements

Qualification requirements and educator-to-child ratios mean greater individual care and attention for your child.

Examples of what to look for:

- Educators know your child's interests.
- There are enough staff to ensure children are adequately supervised and receive the attention they need to learn and develop.

Quality care means your child will be educated and cared for by professionals

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Relationships with children

Your child will feel safe, secure and that they belong. Positive relationships with educators help your children to play and learn.

Examples of what to look for:

- Your child is made to feel supported and welcomed.
- Educators respond to the individual needs and interests of children.

Children need quality care and attention that meets their individual needs

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Partnerships with families and communities

When families and communities are part of a service, your child learns and develops better.

Examples of what to look for:

- Respectful and supportive relationships with families are encouraged.
- Your family's beliefs and values are respected by the service.
- The service builds relationships and engages with its local community.

You should feel included and a part of your child's service

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Leadership and service management

The service is well managed and provides a safe and healthy learning environment.

Examples of what to look for:

- The service has a positive organisational culture.
- Educators are valued and have a clear understanding of the service's goals and expectations.

Quality education and care is built on effective leadership

The National Quality Framework introduces a new quality standard to improve children's education and care services across Australia. Seven quality areas help ensure your child is given the best possible start in life. Over time, all Australian services will be rated against the National Quality Standard.