

Children are born ready to learn. With 90 per cent of a child's brain development occurring in their first eight years, we want to give them the best start in life and learning through quality education and care.

Your service is required to meet quality standards when educating and caring for your child.

### More information

Visit [www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/ecs](http://www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/ecs)

Subscribe to the department's newsletter, *A to Z of Early Childhood*, for the latest information about early childhood education and care reforms in Queensland.

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EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES ACT

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

# Educating and caring for your child

Improved standards for Queensland education and care services



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## What you need to know

On 1 January 2014, changes were introduced for a small number of Queensland education and care services.

The *Education and Care Services Act 2013*\* supports quality education and care for children, especially in remote and regional areas.

Your service is required to meet improved standards for:

- educator qualifications
- educator-to-child ratios
- learning frameworks
- first aid.

## Educator qualifications

From 1 January 2014, all educators were required to hold or be studying towards a nationally recognised early childhood education and care qualification.

## Educator-to-child ratios

The number of educators needed at your service is based on the total number of children attending.

Working out staffing numbers this way gives smaller services more flexibility while ensuring your child enjoys high quality education and care.

\*The *Education and Care Services Act 2013* was introduced on 1 January 2014 and replaced the *Child Care Act 2002*. The Act applies to these service types: services funded by the Queensland Government to provide limited hours care; occasional care services; budget-based funded services that do not receive Australian Government Child Care Benefit; and early childhood education and care services that are also disability services under the *Disability Services Act 2006*. The ECS Act applies to Queensland services not captured under the National Quality Framework which commenced on 1 January 2012 under the Education and Care Services National Law.

## Learning frameworks

Your child will benefit from high quality learning experiences because all services use a nationally approved learning framework.

In addition, your child's progress will be monitored and recorded.

All children, no matter where they live in Australia, will enjoy the same quality of education.

Your service might even want to involve families and the whole community in your child's education.

Ask your service about its learning program and how you can get involved.

## First aid

At least one staff member at your service must hold a first aid qualification.

By the end of 2014, at least one staff member will also be specially qualified in asthma and anaphylaxis management.

Your service needs to make sure there is always someone with each qualification available when children are attending. One educator may hold all three qualifications.

