

Learning frameworks



All Queensland education and care services must have a learning program in place. Under the *Education and Care Services Act 2013* (ECS Act), services must use nationally approved learning frameworks in order to deliver programs that are consistent with Australia-wide standards.

There are two approved frameworks. The *Early Years Learning Framework* is for children up to five years of age; *My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia* is for children six to 12 years of age. These frameworks inform and guide the delivery of consistent and high quality experiences and programs.

This fact sheet also summarises the guidelines available to assist educators to align their practice with an approved learning framework.

Nationally approved learning frameworks

These two frameworks describe the principles, practice and outcomes essential to support and enhance children's learning from birth to 12 years of age.

Queensland education and care services should implement these frameworks. However, another framework that the department considers equivalent could be implemented as an approved alternative.

Early Years Learning Framework

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework has a strong emphasis on play-based learning as this is the best vehicle for young children's learning and the most appropriate stimulus for brain development. The framework also recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

The *Early Years Learning Framework* focuses on five learning outcomes:

1. children have a strong sense of identity
2. children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. children have a strong sense of wellbeing
4. children are confident and involved learners
5. children are effective communicators.

Queensland education and care services for other than school age children should implement this framework.

School Age Care Framework

My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia is designed to inform the development of a program that enhances school age children's experiences and development through planned leisure activities.

This framework aligns with the *Early Years Learning Framework* and supports children to transition from early childhood to school age services. It focuses on outcomes for children attending a quality school age care service and suggests the type of experiences that are offered to achieve these outcomes.

Queensland education and care services for school age children should implement this framework.

Supporting curriculum

There are a number of supporting guidelines to assist educators to embed the nationally approved learning framework. These should be used as a guide only.

Educators' Guide to the Early Years Learning Framework

This guide supports educators to use the *Early Years Learning Framework*. It is designed to promote in-depth conversations and reflection about the concepts in which the framework is built.

An additional resource — *The Early Years Learning Framework in Action* — contains educators' stories of children's learning with questions to provoke thinking and discussion about the principles, practices and learning outcomes of the framework.

Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline

This guideline supports kindergarten teachers in their planning and interaction with kindergarten children, monitoring and assessing, and sharing information in Queensland Government-approved kindergarten programs. It describes five learning and development outcomes and behaviours typical of kindy-age children.

The guideline promotes active learning for children through play, real-life engagement, routines and transitions. It aims to assist educators to implement the *Early Years Learning Framework* and support children in their transition to Prep.

Queensland education and care services that offer a kindergarten program and are in receipt of funding under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme need to use a learning program that is based on the *Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline* or an alternative kindergarten learning guideline that is accredited by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

Foundations for Success

Developed by the Department of Education and Training, *Foundations for Success* supports educators, in partnership with families and the community, to plan, implement, document and reflect on a holistic early learning program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in their kindergarten year and through their transition to school.

The guideline describes five learning areas that are related to the outcomes of the *Early Years Learning Framework*. It was developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education experts, academics and educators.

The guideline emphasises learning that is play-based, promotes the maintenance of Home Language/s and recognises the importance of early literacy and numeracy.

Educators' Guide to the Framework for School Age Care

This guide is designed to help educators to use the *Framework for School Age Care*. The guide supports educators to explore the roles and responsibilities associated with their work in the school age care sector. It builds on the content and themes identified in the framework.

An additional resource — *Promoting Collaborative Partnerships between School Age Care Services and Schools* — is recommended for educators working in partnership with school age children, their families and the community, including schools.

Other kindergarten learning frameworks

The QCCA accredits other kindergarten learning frameworks for use under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme. A full list is available on the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au

Embedding the learning frameworks

The use of learning frameworks enhances the quality and standing of early childhood education and care. Frameworks are adaptable to each service's circumstances and can involve families, communities, staff and children in quality education outcomes.

Services need to consider how to demonstrate linkages between their program and the relevant learning framework. The principles, practices and outcomes

described in the learning frameworks inform the learning program and enhance children's learning and wellbeing. Also services need to ensure that each child's progress is monitored and documented as part of the educational program.

In addition, families should be made aware that the service's educational practice is consistent with a nationally approved learning framework.

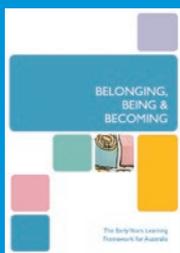
Where services can get help with using the frameworks and guidelines		
Service type	Framework/guideline	Support service
Queensland education and care services for school age children	<i>My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia</i> <i>Educators' Guide to the Framework for School Age Care</i>	Queensland Children's Activity Network (QCAN) www.qcan.org.au
Queensland education and care services for other than school age children	<i>Early Years Learning Framework</i> <i>Educators' Guide to the EYLF</i> <i>Foundations for Success</i>	Early Childhood Australia (ECA) Early Years Learning Framework Professional Learning Program www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au
Approved kindergarten program providers	<i>Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline</i>	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) www.qcaa.qld.edu.au
Queensland early childhood education programs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	<i>Foundations for Success: Guidelines for an early learning program in Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities</i>	Queensland Government – Division of Indigenous Education and Training Futures Education Queensland Professional Support Teachers



Nationally approved learning frameworks

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) is implemented:

- in services that provide programs for children up to five years of age
- as a requirement of the ECS Act



My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care (FSAC) in Australia is implemented:

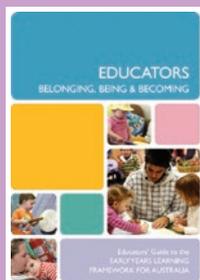
- in services that provide school age programs for children up to 12 years of age
- as a requirement of the ECS Act



Supporting guidelines

Educators' Guide to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia is used:

- in services other than school age care
- to build curriculum
- to support the implementation of the EYLF through shared stories and models of educators' learning plans and reflective questions



Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline is used:

- in an approved kindergarten program (in the year before Prep)
- to support educators to implement the EYLF



Foundations for Success: Guideline for extending and enriching learning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Kindergarten Year is used:

- in services with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the year before Prep
- in services implementing the Bound for Success pre-Prep program in Indigenous communities
- to support educators to implement the EYLF

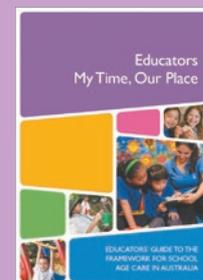


Other kindergarten learning guidelines accredited by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme are:

- used in services with children in an approved kindergarten program (in the year before Prep)
- available from the QCAA website: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au
- to align with the EYLF and Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline

Educators' Guide to the Framework for School Age Care is used:

- in school age care services to build curriculum
- to support educators to implement the FSAC
- to encourage educators to consider opportunities for play – both planned and spontaneous



More information

Further information about the ECS Act is available at www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/ecs or by email to ECSenquiries@dete.qld.gov.au

For the latest information and key updates, subscribe to the *ECS e-bulletin* by sending an email to ECSenquiries@dete.qld.gov.au