

What is the Early Years Learning Framework?

The *Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)* is a guide for early childhood educators. Through a series of principles, practices and learning outcomes it sets out key ideas about the ways in which we work with young children.

It is not a curriculum or syllabus. It won't tell us exactly what we should be doing from day to day or week to week.

Rather, the EYLF is a reminder that learning is too important to be left to chance and gives us a guide for children's learning, development and outcomes.

Belonging, being and becoming

These words are also the title of the EYLF - but they are more than just a catchphrase. In three simple words they actually sum up what we, as early childhood educators, do in our work with children and families.

If every child in our care can experience a genuine sense of belonging; if they can have time and space to be themselves; and if they can be supported in who they are becoming then we will have done a good job.

What are the 5 outcomes of the EYLF?

Like the big ideas of belonging, being and becoming, the outcomes prompt us to identify children's strengths and provide them with the opportunity to use their strengths in everyday practice. The outcomes give us focus to our planning for children's learning. They remind us that we have a responsibility to help each child to reach their learning potential.

- 1. Children have a strong sense of identity**
- 2. Children are connected 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**

What are the principles and practices of the EYLF?

The EYLF sets out five principles and eight practices that guide how we work. These guide our work with the framework. All are based on research about what makes early childhood education most effective. Together they give us some of the tools and ideas that we need to put the EYLF into action.

Principles

1. **Secure, respectful relationships**
2. **Partnerships**
3. **High expectations and equity**
4. **Respect for diversity**
5. **Ongoing learning and reflective practices**

Practices

1. **Holistic approaches**
2. **Responsiveness to children**
3. **Learning through play**
4. **Intentional teaching**
5. **Learning environments**
6. **Cultural competence**
7. **Continuity of learning and transitions**
8. **Assessment for learning**