

# NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK INFORMATION



Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012 our Service is legally required to implement the National Quality Standard (NQS). The NQS aims to support centre - based services like ours to deliver better quality early childhood education and care for all Australian children.

Our Centre's aim is to exceed the National Quality Standards across all areas of our Service. Each centre has a quality improvement plan in place to show what is happening in our centre to achieve this. There are seven quality areas in the NQS and our practices are assessed against 58 elements in total. The QA's are as follows;

## **QA1 Educational program and practice**

The aim of Quality Area 1 of the National Quality Standard is to ensure that the educational program and practice is stimulating and engaging, and enhances children's learning and development. In school age care services, the program nurtures the development of life skills and complements children's experiences, opportunities and relationships at school, at home and in the community.

## **QA2 Children's health and safety**

The aim of Quality Area 2 under the National Quality Standard is to safeguard and promote children's health and safety, minimise risks and protect children from harm, injury and infection.

All children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that provides for their physical and psychological wellbeing and provides support for each child's growing competence, confidence and independence.

## **QA3 Physical environment**

The aim of Quality Area 3 under the National Quality Standard is to ensure that the physical environment is safe, suitable and provides a rich and diverse range of experiences that promote children's learning and development. The way that the environment is designed, equipped and organised determines the way that the space and resources are used and has the potential to maximise children's engagement and level of positive experience and inclusive relationships.

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## **QA4 Staffing arrangements**

The aim of Quality Area 4 under the National Quality Standard is to ensure the provision of qualified and experienced educators, coordinators and nominated supervisors who are able to develop warm, respectful relationships with children, create safe and predictable environments and encourage children's active engagement in the learning program.

## **QA5 Relationships with children**

The aim of Quality Area 5 under the National Quality Standard is to promote relationships with children that are responsive, respectful and promote children's sense of security and belonging. Relationships of this kind free children to explore the environment and engage in play and learning.

## **QA6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**

The aim of Quality Area 6 under the National Quality Standard is to recognise that collaborative relationships with families are fundamental to achieving quality outcomes for children and that community partnerships that are based on active communication, consultation and collaboration are also essential.

## **QA7 Leadership and Service management**

The aim of Quality Area 7 under the National Quality Standard is to support effective leadership and management of the service that contributes to quality environments for children's learning and development. Well-documented policies and procedures, well-maintained records, shared values, clear direction and reflective practices enable the service to function as a learning community.

An ongoing cycle of planning and review, including engagement with families, creates a setting for continuous improvement.

**The NQS is administered and regulated by the Education and Care Regulatory Unit in WA (for more information go to, <http://www.communities.wa.gov.au>).**