

What is the Early Years Learning Framework?

All education and care services under the National Quality Framework are required to use an approved learning framework. For children preschool age and under, this framework is Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF). If your child has previously attended an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) service or Family Daycare, you may already be familiar with the EYLF. The Framework is built on the following themes:

Belonging is the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they belong because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.

Being is about living here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just 'be' - time to play, try new things and have fun.

Becoming is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.

No matter which setting your child attends preschool (an ACT Government Preschool, an ECEC, or elsewhere), educators will use the EYLF to develop learning programs.

Educators use the EYLF in partnership with families to develop programs responsive to children's ideas, interests, strengths and abilities, and recognise that children learn through play. Using the Framework, educators focus on developing:

- a strong sense of identity
- connections with childrens' worlds
- a strong sense of wellbeing
- confidence and involvement in learning, and
- effective communication skills.

The EYLF is not a prescriptive curriculum and it will look different in each setting. Educators will purposefully plan and develop experiences to encourage children to learn and develop lifelong skills, through play.

More information on the EYLF:

ACT Education Directorate - <https://bit.ly/3DUdaG9>

Department of Education, Skills and Employment - <https://bit.ly/2Z7ThfV>

The Importance of Play - <https://bit.ly/3p9WUwG>