



What makes early childhood settings great places to be?

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INTRODUCTION

Facing the future together can be an opportunity to expand our vision of what may be possible in an early childhood setting.

Embracing the idea of the physical environment as a significant educator, suggests expanding our thinking beyond the notion of room arrangements to designing an environment with amazing ideas to set the stage for meaningful relationships, investigation and exploration, complex play and learning..... and more importantly, joy in learning.

First encounters with children and their families provide opportunities to create the foundation of an early childhood setting being a great place to be.

Strengthening the connection between children and their families



Introducing Family Stories

**So that children can listen
to their families' voices all
day!!**

Link to NQF: Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and community

Particular Routines

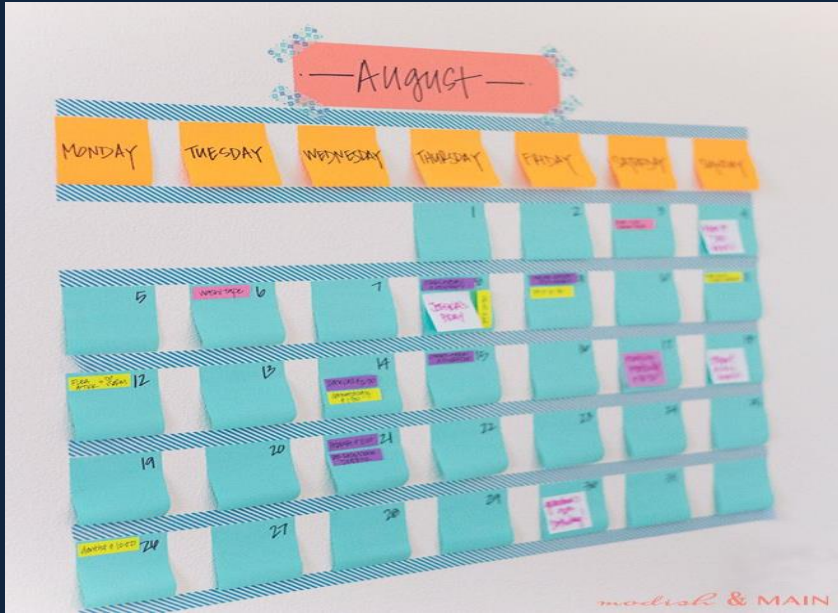


Families and educators record the uniqueness of each child's routines, learning and development

Particular Routines in Action



Creating a jottings space for families



A jottings space in a central location for families can include news of family outings, social interactions and children's interests.

Jottings can provide contextual details for planning for children's learning and development.

Link to NQF:

Quality Area 6:

Element 6.2.1.

The expertise of families is recognised and they share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing.

First Encounters for Children

Welcome – this is a place for children

Home-made welcome books for each new family offer a wonderful way to introduce the values of your service.

With the children's ideas throughout the book, we are clearly demonstrating that this is a place where children's ideas are valued



Creating a busy list
with each child with
their families

- Recording their
particular interests
- Individual
clipboards for each
child





Each child can
announce their
arrival

Recognising that the first encounters to the physical environment are shaping children's memories of their early childhood years



Finding the joy in the first encounters!

Introducing Learning Messages to Families

Documenting
children's learning in
the First Encounter
with an Early
Childhood Setting

Link to NQF:

Quality Area 1: Educational
Program and Practice.
Element 1.1.4. The
documentation about each
child's program and progress
is available to families.

Learning Messages to Families

Dear Families

Transitions – including from home to early childhood settings, between settings and from early childhood settings to school – offer opportunities and challenges for young children. We thought you may like to know how _____ has progressed in the recent transition. When educators reflect on their role in children's learning and assessment, they reflect on their own views and understanding of early childhood theory, research and practice – Early Years Learning Framework (2009:17)



caroline fewster

Great Places to be in Early Childhood are using quality research to guide their thinking, policies and practices

Many studies indicate the importance of positive relationships between educators, children and families being essential to learning.

(Shonkoff et al, 2014)

If children are not able to develop strong relationships, feel comfortable to make choices, take risks, or try new things, learning outcomes may be limited to behaviour compliance and recitation, not the intellectual curiosity and emotional security that sustains life-long learning and altruistic endeavours .

(Shore, R.) (as cited in Carter and Curtis, 2015)

Possibilities to Consider

From behaviour management → to a social learning teaching and learning programme

Learning Goals

- Learning to initiate an interaction
- Learning to take turns



Link to NQF: Quality Area 5: Relationships with children
Element 5.2.2. Each child is supported to manage their own behaviour, respond appropriately to the behaviour of others and communicate effectively to resolve conflicts

The Social Learning Goals in Action

Introducing Friday Conversations



Link to NQF: Quality Area 1 Educational Program and Practice
Element 1.1.2 Each child's current knowledge, ideas , culture, abilities and
interests are the foundation of the program

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - A SOCIAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

FROM
PACKING AWAY TIME
TO
CARING FOR THE
COMMUNITY



CHILDREN'S STORIES

Children's storytelling encourages thinking skills, language acquisition, conversation and an opportunity to explore and represent their ideas.



Educational Principle: Invite children to represent their ideas with multiple materials

Link to NQF: Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice
 Element 1.1.5. Every child is encouraged to participate in the Program

A Photographic Exhibition



Revisiting experiences helps children to become self-reflective. Showing children documentation of their work not only reinforces the children's identity as learners but gives educators an opportunity to learn more about children.

Educational Principle: Exhibit children's ideas back to them with documentation

Link to NQF: Quality Area 5. Relationships with children
Element 5.2.1. Each child is supported to work with and learn from and help others through collaborative learning experiences

Link to NQF:	Quality Area 1: Educational Program & Practice Element 1.1.2. Each child's current knowledge, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation of the program
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A great place to be can look different within the context of each community

In Reggio Emilia, the environment is considered to be the third teacher



Infants and Toddlers



LORIIS MALAGUZZI CENTRE, 2016

In Alice Springs



In Queensland





In Conclusion

What makes an early childhood setting a great place to be?

When every child has the time of their life in every Children's Service.

References

ACEQA (2010) Guide to the National Quality Framework.

Curtis, D., Carter, M. (2013) Learning Together with Young Children.

Reggio Emilia, 2016.

Kool Kids Child Care Centre, Queensland.

Grandma's Place, Queensland..

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Caroline Fewster & Geraldine Harris (2015) Postcards of Possibilities.

Dirty Dancing. The Time of Your Life.