

FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA

CHECKPOINT SERIES

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The approved provider and the nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that an educational program is delivered to all children being educated and cared for by the service.¹

The National Quality Standard outlines the importance of a curriculum enhancing children's learning and development.²

Key Points

There are a number of regulations that make reference to an educational program:

- 1) Regulation 73 – the provision of an educational program that contributes to children's development in relation to the five learning outcomes;
- 2) Regulation 74 – assessments of needs, interests, experiences and participation in the program and the progression against the outcome areas are documented;
- 3) Regulation 75 – information about the educational program is displayed; and
- 4) Regulation 76 – information about the program is given to parents on request.

The requirements of an educational program include:

- Being based on an approved learning framework;
- Incorporating the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child;

- Contributing to the five outcome areas:
 - Children have a strong sense of identity;
 - Children are connected with and contribute to their world;
 - Children have a strong sense of wellbeing;
 - Children are confident and involved learners;
 - Children are effective communicators; and

- Engaging children and enhancing their learning.

Other important considerations are listed below:

- Educators need to think about what is offered to children and why;
- An educational program is guided by a process of planning, documenting and evaluating children's learning;
- Reflective practice provides educators an opportunity to consider how they can contribute to and influence the educational program;
- Documentation assists in making learning visible;
- Although it is necessary for educators to meet specific requirements, each educator will have their own individual approach for planning and documenting their program;
- For educators to be able to explain their program to an assessor, the planning method must make sense to them; and
- Information about the education program must be on display.

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Please note that the information in this Fact Sheet represents general guidance only to encourage critical reflection on your practice. If the content raises any concerns for you, please check with your Coordinator or Service.

¹ National Law 168, ² Standard 1.1

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Checkpoint Questions

- Do you have a copy of the approved learning framework(s)?
- Are you aware of and have access to the educational leader in your service?
- Are you aware of any service guidelines or expectations for the quality of programs?
- Have educators had the opportunity to contribute to these guidelines?
- Is there flexibility for you to determine your own method for recording your program as long as the requirements are being met?
- Do you receive support and guidance with respect to your documentation decisions?
- Do you have your program on display?
- Is training and / or information available for you to support and extend your understandings?

Useful Resources

[ACECQA - Quality Area 1](#)

Is your documentation meaningful?

- Can you explain your program to someone else?
- If you looked back on previous programs, does it make sense to you?
- Are you capturing significant learning and moments in time?
- You can't (and don't need to) record everything, however, is there relevance / importance / significance to what you do record?

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