

First Steps

Department of Education
Aboriginal Children's Early Childhood
Education Strategy 2021-2025

OUR VISION

All Aboriginal children in NSW can access quality early childhood education (ECE) and are supported to embrace their culture and identity for a strong start to lifelong learning.



OUR PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 1 95%** of Aboriginal children will be enrolled in the year before school by 2025*
- 2 55%** of Aboriginal children will be assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census by 2031*
- 3 50%** of Aboriginal children in ECE will have access to an Aboriginal language program by 2025*
- 4 3%** of Early Childhood and Education Directorate staff will be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**
- 5 100%** of staff employed in the NSW Department of Education Early Childhood and Education Directorates will have completed or commenced cultural awareness/safety training by 2025

* Closing the Gap target

** NSW Public Sector Aboriginal Employment Strategy

OUR GOALS



1 CHILD

All Aboriginal children and their families are supported to enrol in quality culturally inclusive ECE.

2 FAMILY & KINSHIP

All Aboriginal families and children feel respected in ECE as their culture is celebrated and nourished.

3 LEARNING

Aboriginal children can have stronger outcomes in ECE and all children will feel pride in Aboriginal people, cultures and histories in NSW.

ACHIEVING OUR GOALS



- Work with local communities to enrol more Aboriginal children in ECE.
- Increase and support the number of Aboriginal ECE services and ECE services with strong connections with Aboriginal communities.
- Increase Aboriginal educators to create culturally safe learning places.
- Ensure there is funding for quality participation of Aboriginal children.
- All children in ECE can learn about Aboriginal languages and cultures in NSW.
- Support culturally appropriate transitions into ECE and primary school programs.
- Aboriginal children with disabilities will have culturally appropriate support and the same educational opportunities as all children.

- Provide guidance and resources to services to become culturally safe and welcoming spaces for Aboriginal families.
- Ensure our ECE sector has culturally safe services and a culturally aware workforce.
- Work with other service providers to give comprehensive support to Aboriginal children and families.
- Continue to strengthen the relationships between the NSW Department of Education, ECE services and Aboriginal families and communities.

- With the support of NSW Health and Aboriginal medical services, develop a culturally appropriate and locally relevant approach to assessing the development of Aboriginal children.
- Show leadership in professional learning and provide networking opportunities for ECE sector staff within local Aboriginal communities.
- Ensure that Aboriginal children are supported to attend at least 600 hours of ECE in the year before school for better outcomes.
- Ensure that NSW Department of Education staff work with services in a culturally safe manner.

