# **The Early Years Learning Framework unpacked**

Participant workbook

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## About this workbook

This workbook is designed to guide your thinking, reflections and plans for future action. In the workbook, you will find **note-taking** **pages** that complement the presentation and **activity templates** to help you engage with the content.

The note-taking pages feature focus questions specific to the content of the presentation. They also provide you with the opportunity to record your key take-aways and ideas.

The activity pages support you to collaborate with colleagues and consider how you can apply the content in your preschool context.

This workbook can be printed double-sided or used digitally. If you have questions about the presentation, please connect with your [Statewide staffroom](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/statewide-staffrooms) or email [earlylearning@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:earlylearning@det.nsw.edu.au).

## Presentation overview

This professional learning session supports teachers, educators and leaders new to the preschool setting, as well as those wanting to deepen their understanding of the elements of the Early Years Learning Framework.

### Learning intentions and success criteria

By the end of the presentation, participants will:

* know and understand preschool curriculum requirements
* know and understand the elements of the EYLF
* reflect on how these elements guide curriculum decision making.

To demonstrate learning, participants will:

* identify how to meet the legislative and quality preschool curriculum requirements
* discuss and describe the elements of the EYLF and how they guide the preschool curriculum.

### Alignment to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers

This presentation aligns with the following standards:

* 2.1.2 Apply knowledge of the content and teaching strategies of the teaching area to develop engaging teaching activities.
* 2.3.2 Design and implement learning and teaching programs using knowledge of curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements.

### Alignment to the School Excellence Framework

This professional learning session aligns with the following elements of the School Excellence Framework:

* Curriculum
* Effective classroom practice
* Learning and development

## Presentation notes

Focus questions

* What are my current understandings of the EYLF?
* What information is new to me?
* How will I know when my preschool curriculum is reflective of the Vision, Principles, Practices and Outcomes of the EYLF?

| **Key points** | **Notes** |
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| **Key points** | **Notes** |
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**Summary**

The 3 key ideas that I would like to apply to my practice:

1.

2.

3.

## Activity 1

Preschool program and practice must comply with national legislation and quality standards.

What is required?

* The legislative requirements set out in the [Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW)](https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2010-104a#sec.168) in Law Section 168.
* Law Section 168 is supported by [Education and Care Services National Regulations 73-76](https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2011-0653#ch.4-pt.4.1).
* Quality Area 1 of the [National Quality Standard](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard/quality-area-1-educational-program-and-practice) (NQS) refers to the quality of the educational program and practice.

**How confident are you to meet the legislative and quality requirements?**

Very confident  Confident  Somewhat confident  Not confident at all

Discuss your answer with a team member or your preschool educational leader.

**The preschool educational program must be:**

based on an approved learning framework

delivered in a manner that accords with the approved learning framework

based on the developmental needs, interests, and experiences of each child

designed to take into account the individual differences of each child

all of the above.

How does your preschool program meet the legislative and quality requirements?

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**Teachers and educators**

Take a moment to answer each of the prompts.

How do you ensure preschool planning is based on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child?

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How does your preschool program take into account the individual differences of each child?

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**Leaders**

Take a moment to answer each of the prompts.

How do you ensure preschool planning is compliant with the legislative and quality requirements?

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How do you ensure all staff involved in the preschool are familiar with the legislative and quality requirements?

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‘The EYLF is heralded as promoting the delivery of a

curriculum that celebrates the diversity between children,

families and communities…’

**(Barblett et al. 2021:18)**

## Activity 2

The EYLF comprises of the elements of the Vision, Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes. These elements ensure that the preschool program is child centred, focussed on learning dispositions and supports effective curriculum decision making.

**What is the most important element of the EYLF?**

Vision

Principles

Practices

Learning Outcomes

All of the above

Discuss your answer with a team member or your preschool educational leader.

**Teachers and educators**

What is one piece of information from the elements of the EYLF that is new or unfamiliar to you? How will you find out more to inform your preschool curriculum decision making?

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**Read the Vision section of the EYLF (pages 6–9).** You can access a copy of the EYLF from the [ACECQA Approved Learning Frameworks webpage](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/approved-learning-frameworks).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Identify what you are curious about or challenged by in the Vision | Affirm your existing understandings or practices that align to the Vision | Identify actions you might need to take to achieve practice aligned to the Vision |
| For example:  How do you think the focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives will support reconciliation? | For example:  How does your preschool already recognise, value and embed diversity? | For example:  How will you use critical reflection to engage deeply with this? |

At your next preschool team meeting, repeat this activity for either the Principles, Practices or Outcomes of the EYLF.

**Leaders**

How will you support your preschool team to become familiar with the elements of the EYLF?

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‘When starting to use the Framework remember that it is just that – a framework. It is not a syllabus, not a program… not a detailed description of everything children will learn. It is a framework of principles, practices and outcomes with which to build your curriculum.’

**(DEEWR 2010:2)**

## Where to next?

Would you like to learn more? The links below provide additional learning and resources.

* [Early Learning Matters podcast series](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/early-learning/early-learning-podcasts)

Podcast 1 of the Updated Early Years Learning Framework series is an episode to introduce to the updates to the EYLF, explore what has changed and the opportunities for change.

* [First steps 4-part series](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fschoolsnsw.sharepoint.com%2F%3Af%3A%2Fr%2Fsites%2FEarlyLearning-MeetingsandPL%2FShared%2520Documents%2FVirtual%2520staffroom%2FEYLF%2520resources%2520and%2520PL%2F2023%2520-%2520Updated%2520EYLF%2520PL%2520and%2520resources%2FFirst%2520steps%2520series%3Fcsf%3D1%26web%3D1%26e%3DxwoYMv&data=05%7C02%7CGabrielle.Innes1%40det.nsw.edu.au%7Cdb70014aa5c043f04c3b08dc1bcb1f8b%7C05a0e69a418a47c19c259387261bf991%7C0%7C0%7C638415806518838962%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=To%2BLomR%2FqSnhyJ2kXdZKQ5fHDfP2lQivoK4%2FNpKucic%3D&reserved=0)

These recorded sessions outline the recent updates to the EYLF in detail and can be watched individually or used as a tool for team discussions.

* [Research toolkits](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fschoolsnsw.sharepoint.com%2F%3Af%3A%2Fr%2Fsites%2FEarlyLearning-MeetingsandPL%2FShared%2520Documents%2FVirtual%2520staffroom%2FEYLF%2520resources%2520and%2520PL%2F2023%2520-%2520Updated%2520EYLF%2520PL%2520and%2520resources%2FResearch%2520toolkits%3Fcsf%3D1%26web%3D1%26e%3DJsnLZ7&data=05%7C02%7CGabrielle.Innes1%40det.nsw.edu.au%7Cdb70014aa5c043f04c3b08dc1bcb1f8b%7C05a0e69a418a47c19c259387261bf991%7C0%7C0%7C638415806518846086%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Fvc7nobxPl%2F53pIBbqVAtnZidmu73V4%2F8x9leOa87m8%3D&reserved=0)

Handouts to support leaders, teachers and educators to take a deep dive and unpack the research underpinning elements of the EYLF.

* [Leading and operating department preschool guidelines](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/early-learning/department-preschools)

The preschool guidelines are a resource to support the leadership, management, and operations of department preschools.

You may also like to examine the planning cycle in more detail.

The planning cycle describes the process educators follow in planning, documenting, responding to and supporting children’s learning. Educators use the stages of the cycle to inform their thinking about children’s experiences and improvement of practice to develop and implement a curriculum that is inclusive of all children (EYLF 2022).

**Further activity for teachers and educators**

Describe your current practices and actions at each stage of the EYLF planning cycle.

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| Stage of the planning cycle | What are your current practices at this stage of the cycle? |
| Observe |  |
| Assess |  |
| Plan |  |
| Implement |  |
| Evaluate |  |

**Further activity for leaders**

A preschool team member has asked for support with the planning cycle, particularly the assessment of each child’s learning. How could you support your team member? What resources could you draw on?

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Evaluation

We value your feedback. Please complete the [Early Years Learning Framework unpacked evaluation](https://forms.office.com/r/UZP0eKxiUw​) to help us provide further support.

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## References

Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) (2023) [*Guide to the National Quality Framework* [PDF 3.85 MB]](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/Guide-to-the-NQF-March-2023.pdf), ACECQA, accessed 5 December 2023.

Barblett L, Cartmel J., Hadley F, Harrison LJ, Irvine S, Bobongie-Harris F & Lavina L (2021). [*National Quality Framework Approved Learning Frameworks Update: Literature Review* [PDF 1.10 MB]](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-09/2021NQF-ALF-UpdateLiteratureReview.PDF). Australian Children’s Educations and Care Quality Authority, accessed 5 December 2023.

Commonwealth of Australia (2010) [*Educators guide to the Early Years Learning Framework* [PDF 8.51 MB]](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/acecqa/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources-Kit/educators_guide_to_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia_2.pdf), Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), accessed 5 December 2023.

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