



# Childcare Activity Background Information

Childcare plays an important role in a young child's development.

There are National Quality Standards in place to ensure all childcare centres provide quality care.

Read the following excerpt from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Early Childhood policy, "Information for Families" which outlines the key areas that childcare and early childhood education services and programs must meet.

## National Quality Standard

The new National Quality Standard will help services to provide the best possible level of early childhood education and care by being clear about the factors that best support a child's development. It will also give services and families confidence in understanding what distinguishes high quality or excellent services. The new National Quality Standard is divided into seven areas that contribute to the quality of early childhood education and care. These areas have been identified by research and are:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements (including the number of staff looking after children)
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management

Under each of these areas more detail is provided about what a service can do to provide the highest quality early childhood education and care for a child.

[http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Policy\\_Agenda/Quality/Documents/InfoForFamilies.pdf](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Documents/InfoForFamilies.pdf)

Educational program and practice in childcare includes activities where young children have a chance to explore new things, develop their understanding and increase their knowledge, language and learning.