



Early Childhood Australia
Professional Learning

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING GUIDE

Evidence-based tools and
resources that inspire quality

Ninth Edition • 2026

About Early Childhood Australia

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) is the national advocacy voice for young children and early childhood professionals in Australia. Incorporated in 1938 as the Australian Preschool Association, we have been of service to Australian children for more than 80 years. We are a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation with active state and territory bodies in each Australian jurisdiction and a National Board of Directors.

ECA's vision is to ensure that 'every young child is thriving and learning'. To achieve this vision, we champion the rights of all children from birth to the age of eight to thrive, learn and play at home, in the community, within early learning settings and through the early years of school. Our work builds the capacity of our society, including families and early childhood professionals, so that every child—regardless of location, household income or individual needs—can be nurtured to achieve their potential.

Our Strategic Plan (2025-2030) has five priorities:

Priority 1: A voice for young children

Priority 2: Build professional and sector capability

Priority 3: Partnerships for impact

Priority 4: Leader in professional learning and events

Priority 5: Sustainable and effective

For more information about ECA, including our Annual Report, Strategic Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan, please visit www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au. You can also download the ECA app for use on your mobile device—available for both Apple and Android platforms.

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ECA Professional Learning

ECA is the leading provider of professional learning to the Australian early childhood sector across publications, events and online learning. We produce high-quality content to support the professional development of early childhood educators, teachers and service leaders. All resources are quality assured, up to date and written by highly experienced subject matter experts.

Our resources support educators at all stages of their career—from students just starting out to leaders with responsibility for driving practice and quality improvement.

We recognise that professional learning is inherently linked to quality outcomes for children and important for everyone in the early childhood sector. We also know that adult learners have a diversity of learning styles, preferences and needs. Our goal is to provide a suite of quality-assured resources to meet the needs of every educator at any career stage.

This is the ninth edition of the *ECA Professional Learning Guide*, which provides an overview of our resources, including online learning, events and publications (digital and print).

We have divided the guide into sections reflecting the four major components of our professional learning offerings:



ECA Learning Hub

100+ courses, 60,000+ learners engaged in self-paced online learning



ECA National Conference, Symposium & state/territory events

3,000+ participants every year attend our in-person events



ECA Publications

Australasian Journal of Early Childhood, *Every Child* magazine, *Research in Practice* & *Everyday Learning Series* + signature titles, such as the *Box of Provocations* series



ECA Programs & Communities of Practice

Combining online and group learning

Strengthening practice through professional development

Professional development is key to strengthening practice, enriching job satisfaction and deepening the impact of our work. By connecting theory with practice, we build knowledge, confidence and a greater sense of purpose, nurturing enthusiasm, growth and excellence both personally and professionally.

ECA recognises the vital role of professional learning in achieving quality outcomes for children. That's why we provide a wide range of opportunities designed to meet the diverse needs of educators and teachers across all settings. Whether undertaken individually or alongside peers, this allows for learning to be contextualised and embedded.

Working with young children and families is complex and demanding. Educators need up-to-date skills, knowledge and strategies to navigate these competing demands with confidence. ECA acknowledges and supports the crucial role of professional development by offering engaging, high-quality professional learning that inspires and empowers teams to thrive and achieve quality outcomes for children.

As you explore these opportunities, we encourage you to prioritise professional learning plans for yourself and your team. Effective professional development works best when it's collaborative, bringing together managers and educators to plan, implement and sustain growth that makes a lasting difference.



Self-assessment of learning—Reflective practice encourages individuals to set personal goals, recognise their strengths and areas for improvement, and take ownership of their professional growth.

When developing individual professional learning plans, consider:

- current knowledge of service-based policies and procedures
- required compliance-based training: mandatory reporting and legal responsibilities, WHS, first aid and safe sleep
- best practice approaches to meet the *National Quality Standard*
- (for teachers) professional learning that contributes to teacher registration
- team or service development that supports the service's Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- how the plan supports aspirations as well as areas of growth, future goals and findings of past performance reviews.

Extension over time—Effective professional development is not a one-time event; it is an ongoing process that fosters sustained learning and growth. A strong development plan should include clear, measurable and achievable goals, with steps that define the actions to reach them and tangible indicators of success (how will you know when the goal has been met?).

To build a culture of continuous improvement, make professional learning a regular topic of discussion and actively evaluate its impact. Break the long-term plan into smaller, manageable milestones, and schedule check-ins to review progress, celebrate achievements and adjust strategies as needed.

Professional collaboration and evaluation—Having a mentor, experienced colleague or trusted peer to discuss developing practice is invaluable. These types of professional relationships provide support, constructive feedback and a safe space to explore new ideas. Such collaboration helps navigate challenges, refine approaches and embed learning more effectively.

Mentors also gain from the experience, as guiding others can strengthen their own professional practice and contribute to their ongoing development.

It is equally important to document your professional learning journey. Keep a reflective diary where you record insights, strategies you have implemented and the ways in which new learning has influenced your practice. This kind of documented critical reflection not only supports growth but also serves as strong evidence of Exceeding themes.

Knowledge into practice—Participants should implement strategies learned during training in their daily practice, turning knowledge into meaningful action. Inviting staff members to share their professional learning experiences and insights not only reinforces their own growth but also extends the benefits to colleagues, fostering a culture of collective learning.

Quality improvement is a team commitment—Planning for professional learning and networking opportunities is essential to ongoing growth and quality improvement. In education and care settings, all team members share responsibility for maintaining high standards, with accountability to one another. Building a culture of professional inquiry, critical reflection and continuous improvement requires a collective commitment, one that can only be achieved through a collaborative approach. In education and care, staff development is closely tied to the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

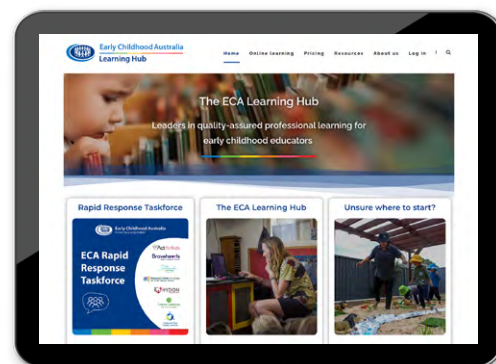


ECA Learning Hub

The ECA Learning Hub is a trusted online platform delivering professional learning for educators and all professionals working with children. Recognised for its high-quality, research-based courses, the Learning Hub combines the latest evidence with innovative approaches to adult learning.

Our courses and resources are designed to be accessible, affordable and contemporary, ensuring that professional learning can happen anytime, anywhere. Each course supports meaningful change in practice, builds professional confidence, and ultimately contributes to better outcomes for young children.

The ECA Learning Hub is tailored for individual learners who can access courses at their own pace through our secure Learning Management System (LMS) with a unique email and password. Courses are available for individual purchase or through a subscription, which unlocks a full library of courses, programs, resources and exclusive subscriber-only content.



Quality online learning

Designed specifically for education and care professionals, the courses on the ECA Learning Hub are based on the latest research and informed by best-practice adult learning methodologies. Each course is created by subject matter experts (SMEs), researchers and sector leaders, and is carefully reviewed through a rigorous quality-assurance process involving at least two professionals with relevant expertise.

Our professional learning speaks directly to educators and teachers, offering practical, relevant content that can be applied across a wide range of settings, including schools, preschools/kindergartens, family day care, early childhood services, playgroups and outside school hours care.

The ECA Learning Hub hosts a range of content, including:



What's available

The ECA Learning Hub offers a wide variety of high-quality online learning, publications and resources designed to provide flexibility for individuals and teams at different stages of their careers and with diverse levels of knowledge and expertise. From students just beginning their journey to highly experienced early childhood professionals, the Learning Hub delivers professional learning that meets the needs of the entire sector.

Courses: Interactive, research-based courses that you can access anytime, anywhere. Presented by subject matter experts (SMEs), courses feature a mix of text, videos and hands-on learning activities to support practical understanding across a wide range of early childhood settings.

Programs: Structured collections of courses and resources designed as learner pathways for deeper professional development. Completion criteria vary within each program and are designed to support learners to get the most out of the program:

- **All in order:** Complete all courses in a specific sequence.
- **All in any order:** Complete all courses, but in any order you choose.
- **At least some:** Complete selected core courses, with optional electives to explore additional concepts.

Some programs are sequential to ensure scaffolding of learning, while others are topic-based and can be completed in any order. Certificates of completion are awarded once all required courses within a program are finished.



Publications: The *Everyday Learning* and *Research in Practice Series* publications are quality assured, up to date and written by experienced early childhood professionals, available digitally.

Live Webinars: Real-time, live-streamed events that dive deeply into timely topics. Connect directly with early childhood experts, ask questions, and engage in meaningful discussions.

Communities of Practice: Collaborative online spaces where participants learn with and from each other. These communities use a blended-learning approach, combining self-paced courses, live events, curated resources, forums, publications and action research projects to deepen knowledge on specific topics.

Teacher-accredited professional learning: All ECA online learning courses are aligned with the *National Quality Standard (NQS)* Quality Areas and the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST)*, ensuring high-quality professional learning that meets regulatory and professional standards. ECA offers courses that are accredited by the ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) and the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). All ECA professional learning can be used to support your elective professional development (PD) hours.



ECA Learning Hub subscription

A subscription to the ECA Learning Hub gives learners annual access to a comprehensive library of online courses covering topics such as work health and safety, pedagogy, documentation, leadership and more. New courses are added regularly, keeping your professional learning current and relevant.

Subscriptions are available on an individual or organisational basis and allow learners to complete courses at their own pace, anytime, anywhere. Subscribers also gain access to a curated collection of resources, as well as practical in-service tasks with next steps to deepen knowledge and elevate practice.

Professional development that is flexible, accessible and tailored to meet the needs of every educator.

Why subscribe?



Library of over 100 online courses, with a diverse range of SMEs



Exclusive live events, opportunities to join an online community to discuss best practices



Resources and templates to implement and support you in service



Access to User Management Dashboard to self-manage your team



To stay up to date with regular EDMs to highlight what's new



Team reporting to provide oversight of your team's progress



Subscriber only courses and programs only available with a subscription



Digital Subscriber badge to showcase your commitment to professional development

Exclusive subscription-only courses

An annual subscription to the ECA Learning Hub unlocks exclusive access to new, premium content created by ECA each year. Subscribers also receive bonus online resources and courses that aren't available anywhere else.



Breaking out: Advancing outdoor learning program



Acting ethically: Exploring the ECA Code of Ethics



Communication in the workplace



Dealing with stress, pressure and burnout in education settings



Induction essentials: A beginner's guide to education and care



Playing with gratitude



Professionalism, paperwork and pedagogy: Leading professional practice in long day care



Taking notice and taking care

User Management Dashboard

The User Management Dashboard (UMD) is a powerful feature of the ECA Learning Hub, giving services and organisations greater flexibility and control over their subscription. With the UMD, you can easily manage teams by adding or removing users, updating details, monitoring learner progress and generating progress reports across your service or organisation.



The Dashboard has been designed to support key leaders, such as managers, educational leaders and other coordinators, through two dedicated roles:

- **Account Manager:** Each organisation can assign up to two Account Managers to oversee services and learners within their subscription.
- **Group Coordinator:** An optional role that can be tailored to your organisation's structure and professional learning responsibilities.

Available to all services and organisations with an active subscription, the UMD makes it simple to manage learners, track progress and onboard new team members, ensuring smooth administration in just a few easy steps.

High-impact resources

These resources are designed to help early childhood professionals strengthen safeguarding practices, embed a child safe culture and ensure that children's rights are always respected and upheld.





ECA Digital Library Subscription

Subscribe to the ECA Digital Library to get the latest in quality-assured and sector-reviewed early childhood education research and practice titles at the click of a button. Cherished sector titles are now available on the ECA Learning Hub, an easy-to-use digital platform catering to all your professional learning needs. With an active subscription, you'll receive new books throughout a 12-month period, including titles from the much-loved *Everyday Learning* and *Research in Practice Series*. In addition, you'll gain unlimited access to a rich back catalogue of over 100 expert-authored titles, covering a wide range of topics critical to early years practice and research.

Whether you're looking to stay informed about current trends, build your team's capacity, or enhance your own professional learning, the ECA Digital Library is your go-to resource.

The ECA Digital Library also includes downloadable fact sheets and PowerPoint presentations.

- The fact sheets outline topics with easy-to-digest, bite-sized information for educators to discuss the topic with families and their peers.
- The PowerPoint presentations support engagement in professional learning in teams. The presentations are designed to prompt critical thinking and reflection and support conversations that improve practice in early childhood education and care settings.

“The ECA Digital Library is an excellent resource that brings together a comprehensive range of accessible, evidence-informed publications and accompanying supports. This catalogue of wide-ranging contemporary publications supports individuals and teams to continue to build knowledge of their interests and priorities, inform their professional decision-making and guide the design and delivery of high-quality educational programs and practices for children and families in their community.”

– Professor Jane Page OAM

Invest in your team and elevate your practice.
Subscribe to the ECA Digital Library today.



Professional learning topics

Partnership and collaboration

ECA partners with leading organisations, including Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE), Claire Warden, Family Day Care Australia, Rainbow Families, the eSafety Commissioner and Koori Curriculum, to deliver premium, specialised professional learning that combines the expertise of both ECA and our partners.



Understanding brain development

Presenter: Emerging Minds, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership and Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland

Quality Area: 1, 5

APST: 1, 6

[Subscription](#)

This free program gives you powerful, research-backed insights into how early relationships, environments and interactions shape healthy brain development, setting children up for a lifetime of learning, resilience and wellbeing.



eSafety early years: Creating a safe online environment

Presenter: eSafety Commissioner

Quality Area: 1, 3, 7

APST: 1, 3, 6, 7

[Subscription](#)

This course is specifically for Directors and Managers of early learning services throughout Australia. It is designed to enable a review of a service's online safety processes and practices. You will learn how to ensure online safety is considered in the same way as other safety practices at your service.



Governance and risk management program

Presenters: ECA Learning Hub

Quality Area: 2, 3, 4, 7

APST: 6, 7

[Subscription](#)

The courses in this program cover key topics to support an increased understanding of risk management and its place in governance and leadership, unpacking and exploring the differing roles that service leaders play, or should play, in understanding and managing risk to ensure compliance and quality.



Understanding young children's behaviour and empowering their future (2-part series)

Presenter: Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6

APST: 1, 4, 7

[Subscription](#)

This series is suitable for all educators currently working in an approved education and care setting across Australia. This is a foundation course that focuses on essential knowledge to guide children's behaviour and may be suitable for educators who are new to the sector or embarking on a formal early childhood qualification.



**ENROL
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Encountering and interpreting the principles of Reggio Emilia Encounters (4-part series)

Discover and explore the principles of Reggio Emilia in this one-of-a-kind online professional learning package, developed by Early Childhood Australia and the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange in collaboration with Reggio Children, Italy.

This series contains four encounters:

Encounter 1—Not just any place

The first Encounter provides an overview of the educational project of Reggio Emilia and the context, culture and complexity of this educational approach. The next two Encounters will build on this initial information with an in-depth exploration of several of the important concepts of the project.

Encounter 2—Seeing things differently

In the second Encounter, you will be offered information about some of the pedagogical choices made by educators who work in the municipal early childhood centres in Reggio Emilia and Australian interpretations of this approach. You will also be given the opportunity to consider pedagogical research and invited to consider ways that these choices link to daily practice.

Encounter 3—Teachers and children as researchers

In the third Encounter, we delve deeper into some of the strategies for understanding the learning and teaching that the Reggio Emilia educators engage in as part of their day-to-day work with children. You will also be given the opportunity to complete the online learning journal and reflect back on your learning experience throughout the Encounters.

Encounter 4—Pedagogy, a context for research

In this Encounter, some of the theoretical underpinnings, values, practices and language of the educational project of Reggio Emilia will be examined in greater depth, although it should be kept in mind that the educational project of Reggio Emilia is always evolving.

Developed in partnership by:



Reggio Emilia Australia
INFORMATION EXCHANGE
re search for a new culture of childhood



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children



REGGIO CHILDREN



Participatory planning: The Floorbooks® Approach and nature pedagogy

Presenter: Dr Claire Warden

These professional learning packages have been developed by Dr Claire Warden in partnership with ECA.



What is the Floorbooks Approach?

The Floorbooks Approach is designed to create a balance between adult intentionality and child autonomy. Floorbooks allow educators to consult deeply with children during the planning and documentation process. The approach encourages higher-order thinking skills and helps children influence their learning.

What are Talking Tubs?

A Talking Tub is a container that a practitioner fills with a wide variety of objects based on a particular theme. Objects can be taken out one by one, encouraging children to touch, feel and explore a theme. Observation, documentation, assessment and planning are most effective when they are matched to the needs of the child. In order to achieve this, we need to understand children's thinking by considering all the ways in which they communicate.

The Talking Tub is a vital part of the Talking and Thinking Floorbooks Approach. The tub will allow you to provoke child-led conversations, which in turn will create possible lines of development.

What is nature pedagogy?

Nature pedagogy is an educational way of working with children that embraces nature. 'Nature pedagogy is an understanding of our sense of belonging to land, our sense of working with nature. There is a pedagogical shift when you move outside into nature ... It's learning with nature, not just teaching about it.' —Dr Claire Warden

Developed in partnership by:



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

Professional learning topics

Pedagogy and curriculum



Understanding and guiding behaviour: The 6Rs Framework

Presenter: Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6

APST: 1, 4, 7

[Subscription](#)

The 6Rs Framework empowers you with a practical and clear plan for supporting children through times of challenge or stress. This comprehensive program will enhance your understanding of what influences children's behaviour so you can respond in the best way possible to help children reach their potential.



Incorporating meaningful movement in every day

Presenter: Carla McFadden

Quality Area: 1, 2, 3

APST: 4

[Subscription](#)

This course explores why movement is so important in everyday life from birth and throughout childhood. Movement provides many benefits for children's health, wellbeing and development. The course will focus on specific benefits and how educators can make movement fun. Practical examples and strategies will be provided to develop educators' understanding of how meaningful movement can be incorporated into the learning environment for all children.



Rediscovering the planning cycle: EYLF (V2.0)

Presenter: Rod Soper

Quality Area: 1

APST: 3, 5

[Subscription](#)

Presented by Rod Soper, this practical course will help you rediscover the *Early Years Learning Framework (V2.0)* planning cycle and show you how it can be used to reinvigorate not only your thinking, but also your approach to children's learning and development.



Putting children first: Child safe organisations

Presenter: ECA Learning Hub

Quality Area: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

APST: 4

[Subscription](#)

This course introduces early childhood professionals to the concept of child safe organisations and the *10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*. It highlights everyone's role in creating safe environments where children's rights are respected, risks are reduced, and harm is identified and responded to appropriately. Suitable for all staff in education and care settings.



Documenting and assessing children's learning with Dr Anne Kennedy

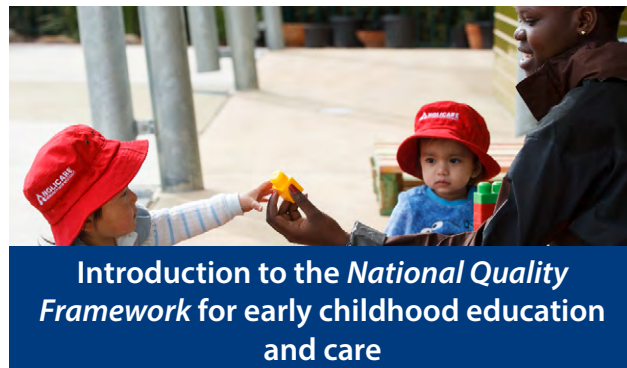
Presenter: Dr Anne Kennedy

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6

APST: 3, 5

Subscription

Discover how documenting and assessing children's learning helps educators gain a deeper understanding of children's interests, strengths and abilities, and how to support and extend children's learning and development.



Introduction to the *National Quality Framework* for early childhood education and care

Presenter: ECA Learning Hub

Quality Area: 4, 7

APST: 6, 7

Subscription

The *National Quality Framework* sets a benchmark for the quality of education and care services. This course will assist educators who are new to the education and care sector to orientate themselves and understand the regulatory framework in which they operate.

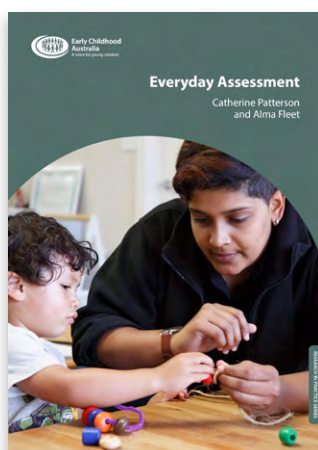


Schematic Play

By Katie Dix

Have you ever observed a child and wondered why they continue to explore a specific action or movement pattern? These behaviours are a natural part of schema development. *Schematic Play* is a practical guide to understanding what schemas are and why they are essential to early learning. It includes strategies for supporting children to explore the nine play schemas in early childhood education and care settings.

Quality Area: 1, 3



Everyday Assessment

By Catherine Patterson and Alma Fleet

This *Research in Practice Series* book invites educators to engage with current thinking about assessment, as guided by four big ideas:

- Assessment in early childhood education is part of everyday practice.
- Assessment involves all stakeholders—children, families and colleagues.
- Assessment practices are multiple and flexible, capturing the complexities of children's learning, development and wellbeing.
- Assessment can be understood and made visible through analytical narratives, such as pedagogical documentation.

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6

Professional learning topics

Leadership and management



Inappropriate discipline

Presenter: ECA Learning Hub

Quality Area: 2, 4, 7

APST: 4, 6, 7

Subscription

This course supports anyone working in education and care settings to understand the difference between inappropriate discipline and positive behaviour guidance. Aligned with the National Quality Framework, it covers legal responsibilities, child-safe practices and effective strategies that respect each child's dignity and support their social and emotional development. This course includes an assessment, and it is recommended that educators complete the course annually.



Action research in behaviour guidance: The Phoenix Cups® approach (2-part series)

Presenter: Sandi Phoenix

Quality Area: 5, 7

APST: 4, 6

Subscription

This series examines an alternative to behaviourism, drawing on ideas from humanistic psychology and the guidance approach. It comes at a time when ideas about using positive psychology in our work with children have begun to flourish, and the implications and learnings can inform your approach to responding to children's behaviour. You will explore behavioural learning and how the Phoenix Cups® framework embodies the guidance approach. You will also learn practical strategies for implementing this approach within an early childhood education and care service.



Developing and maintaining a Quality Improvement Plan

Presenter: Dr Luke Touhill

Quality Area: 1, 4, 7

APST: 7

Subscription

The course encourages a team-based approach to developing and using a Quality Improvement Plan seeking the involvement of all educators, children and families.



Philosophy leading strategy (3-part series)

Presenter: Dr Leanne Gibbs

Quality Area: 1, 4, 7

APST: 7

Subscription

A shared vision and philosophy is integral to the achievement of an Exceeding rating, yet these components are not always understood by educators and managers. This series aims to study the meaning of vision and philosophy and explore how a vision and philosophy is used within early and middle-childhood settings.



Understand the role: Nominated supervisor and person in day-to-day charge in education and care

Presenter: Vanessa Gale

Quality Area: 7

APST: 6, 7

Subscription

This module is designed to unpack what it means to be a nominated supervisor or a person in day-to-day charge of an early childhood education and care service. Participants will be assisted in understanding the role's key responsibilities and how the legislation is constructed to give effect to this role. They will also be taken through the key legislative requirements and what these look like in practice, including what they should expect of approved providers (employers).



Professionalism and identity in early childhood: Who we are and what we do

Presenter: Catharine Hydon

Quality Area: 4, 7

APST: 7

Subscription

This course explores the idea of professional identity in two ways—who you are and what you do. You will ponder notions of professionalism and your identity in early childhood education and care in relation to children, families, colleagues and the community. You will consider links between professional identity and the implications of professional ethics for your practice.



Beyond Passion: Building Professional Identity

By Sarah Louise Gandolfo

The *Everyday Learning Series* title provides examples and questions to foster robust personal reflection on the concept of professional identity. It asks early childhood professionals, from all parts of the sector and career stages, to consider the influence of social, cultural, historical and political constructs on their identity and practice.

Quality Area: 4, 7



Putting Children First: Child Safe Organisations

By Kerryann Walsh and Rhiannon Smith

Early childhood educators and service providers are taking large positive steps towards creating child safe organisations by ensuring their centres are places where every child is valued, and their rights to safety and wellbeing are respected and upheld.

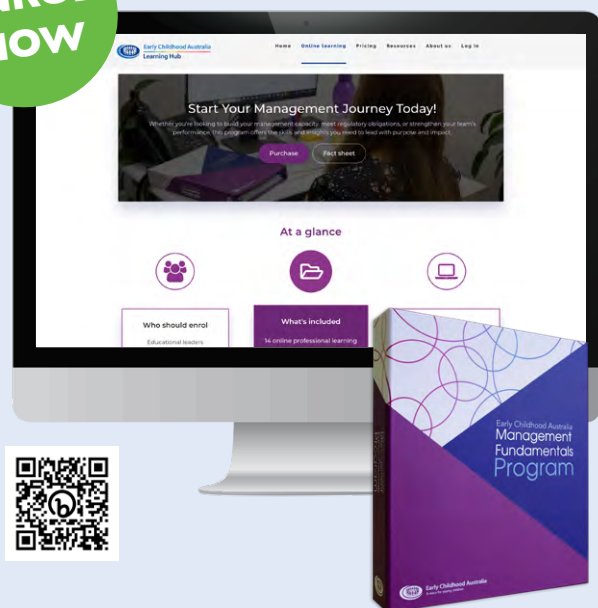
Quality Area: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

The ECA Management Fundamentals Program

The Program nurtures future leaders and supports succession planning, enhancing career pathways and organisational sustainability. By improving management across teams, it helps boost effectiveness, productivity and staff retention while ensuring high-quality education and care.

In a dynamic environment, consistent and capable leadership plays a key role in maintaining service quality and supporting the long-term success of education and care organisations.

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Who should enrol

Educational leaders, team or room leaders
Experienced childhood educators and teachers
Experienced and new service directors and managers
Early childhood consultants

Flexible learning

Over 25 hours of content
Self-paced
Enrol at any time
Access to online program content for 6 months

What's included

14 online professional learning courses
Program folder
Online tools and resources
Printed checklists and audit tools
Certificate of completion

Six key topics



Philosophy, purpose and planning

Describes the need for a clear and accurate purpose statement along with a well-defined vision that is inclusive of all stakeholders. Explores the concept of values and focuses on the essential elements necessary for successful business planning.



Financial management systems

Examines the relationship between financial management and the education and care sector. Delves into the responsibilities of managers in areas such as budgeting, reporting and basic tax requirements.



Decision-making and effective communication

Explains the importance of change, its effects and how to facilitate it through effective decision-making. Covers various functional systems, policies and procedures necessary for supporting an evolving business.



Understanding governance and legal frameworks

Provides an overview of governance structures and processes, examines the roles and responsibilities of formal management positions, and explores the scope and limitations of quality standards as they apply to education and care services.



Human resource management

Explores the employment relations components, systems and relationships, emphasising the role of managers in ensuring compliance. Delves into effective performance management systems and the concepts of team, culture, onboarding and key operational decisions.



Risk mitigation and management

Examines the importance of thorough, contextual business risk management, risk assessment and contingency planning. Explores effective emergency management, critical incident planning and response, the role of communication and the management of emotions in emergency scenarios.

The ECA Leadership Program

The *ECA Leadership Program* is founded on expert research and sector consultation. It has been designed by some of Australia's foremost early childhood experts, including Sandra Cheeseman, Leanne Gibbs and Manjula Waniganayake, and further quality assured by early childhood leaders. Our *Leadership Program* was specifically created as a strengths-based, self-directed, short-term program for both current and aspiring early childhood leaders in diverse settings.

The *ECA Leadership Program* was redeveloped in 2021 to incorporate contemporary sector research, and it was reviewed again by educators, leaders and aspiring leaders from across the sector. New materials have been added, both to the program folder and to the online content, and using self-assessment tools, participants can focus on the specific areas that will best support their needs and goals.

At a Glance



Who should enrol

Experienced and new service directors and managers

Educational leaders

Team or room leaders

Experienced childhood educators and teachers

Early childhood consultants

Aspiring leaders



Flexible learning

Over 20 hours of content

Self-paced

Enrol at any time

Access to online program content for six months



What's included

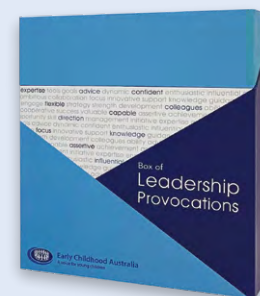
12 online professional learning courses

Program folder

ECA Leadership Capability Framework

Optional opportunity to receive customised feedback on your Personal Professional Learning Plan

Certificate of completion



Box of Leadership Provocations

The *Box of Leadership Provocations* is a valuable optional addition to the *ECA Leadership Program*. Written by six of Australia's leading early childhood experts—Anne Stonehouse, Anthony Semann, Susan Irvine, Catharine Hydon, Michelle Gujer and Leanne Gibbs—the *ECA Box of Leadership Provocations* is for leaders at all levels. Each of the 48 provocation cards, which are organised under the six capabilities outlined in the *ECA Leadership Capability Framework*, includes questions to provoke discussion and debate.

Professional learning topics

Health and wellbeing



Dysregulation and maladaptive behaviours in young children (2-part series)

Presenter: Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6

APST: 1, 4, 7

[Subscription](#)

This 2-part learning series supports learners in developing an understanding of the complexity of children's behaviour and why a timely and consistent approach is important. You will be encouraged to adopt an individualised lens for understanding and supporting children's behaviour, and you will do this by exploring potential sources of stress and identifying common behavioural and environmental triggers, both within and outside your early learning service settings.



Planning for nutritional wellbeing

Presenter: Dr Erin Kerr, Dr Ruth Crowe

Quality Area: 2

APST: 2

[Subscription](#)

This course will enhance the quality of the menu provided in your service and build your knowledge of planning a menu that meets nutritional requirements daily and across the week. You will be provided with tips and ideas for creating nutritious meals for children in your early childhood education and care setting. The course covers food requirements, snack ideas, label-reading guidelines and ingredient substitutions.



Respect: A guide to calm and nurturing infant care and education

Presenter: Toni Christie

Quality Area: 1, 2, 5, 6

APST: 1, 3

[Subscription](#)

Respect—defined as treating someone or something with consideration—should underpin the values and actions of educators. This course will unpack the practicality of respect in infant and toddler programs, with particular emphasis on primary caregiving, care rituals, settling processes, free movement as well as partnerships with families.



Supporting healthy eating behaviours in early childhood

Presenter: Christine Phillis, Dr Erin Kerr, Dr Ruth Crowe

Quality Area: 1, 2, 5

APST: 3

[Subscription](#)

Supporting healthy eating in early childhood is about more than the food we provide—it's about how we discuss and build meaningful food experiences with children. This course will equip you with practical, holistic strategies to nurture positive food relationships through play, connection and responsive interactions. You'll explore how to support selective eaters, respond to hunger and fullness cues and create engaging learning opportunities that spark curiosity and wellbeing.



Bullying and Harassment for Employees

Presenter: ECA Learning Hub

Quality Area: 4

APST: 6

[Subscription](#)

This course has been designed to provide employees with an understanding of workplace bullying and harassment in the workplace. This course references current legislation in Australia.



Duty of care: Work health and safety in education and care

Presenters: ECA Learning Hub

Quality Area: 2, 3, 4, 7

APST: 4, 6, 7

[Subscription](#)

Work health and safety is everyone's responsibility. Explore workplace and individual responsibilities and how to fulfil these responsibilities.



The Circle of Security: Roadmap to building supportive relationships

By Robyn Dolby

The Circle of Security is a way of thinking about emotion and behaviour that enables early childhood professionals to look beyond a child's immediate behaviour and think about how to meet their genuine relationship needs.

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6



Infant Sleep

By Pam Linke

Educators working with infants need to feel confident in their knowledge of infant sleep so they can respond to each child's unique needs and support families through early sleep development. This book is an accessible guide to safe sleep practices for babies and infants in early childhood education and care settings. It provides clear advice on overcoming sleep challenges, understanding the connection between sleep and culture, and communicating infant sleep needs with families.

Quality Area: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Professional learning topics

Rights, advocacy and inclusion



Responding to harmful sexual behaviours: Birth to five

Presenter: Samantha Dellamarta

Quality Area: 2

APST: 7

[Subscription](#)

Children in your care may be at risk of experiencing harmful sexual behaviours from other children within your service. Your role is to mitigate the risk, recognise the warning signs, and take appropriate action by responding and reporting.



Partnerships with families for inclusive practice (2-part series)

Presenter: ECA Learning Hub

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6

APST: 6, 7

[Subscription](#)

Partnerships with families and caregivers underpin young children's inclusion, learning and development. This series examines the role of effective partnerships to enable inclusion within early childhood education and care services, the benefits of partnerships and strategies to support inclusive practice.



Working with the ECA *Code of Ethics*

Presenter: Catharine Hydon

Quality Area: 4, 7

APST: 6, 7

[Subscription](#)

This course examines what it means to be ethical and how early childhood educators can use the ECA *Code of Ethics* to strengthen relationships with children, families, colleagues, societies and the profession.



An insight into Autism Spectrum Disorder (2-part series)

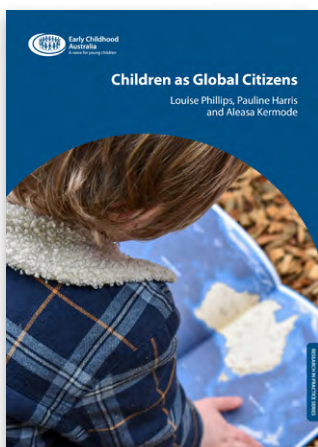
Presenter: Autism Queensland

Quality Area: 1, 5

APST: 1, 3, 4

[Subscription](#)

Behaviour is a form of communication. This 2-part series examines behaviour as communication and how to understand certain behaviours and why they might occur, before delving deeper into how behaviour can look different for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It also explains how educators can guide children through positive behaviour-support strategies while advocating for children with special rights.



Children as Global Citizens

By Louise Phillips, Pauline Harris and Aleasa Kermode

Children, like all human beings, are citizens of the global community. *Children as Global Citizens* urges early childhood educators to advocate for children's global citizenship rights and offers practical strategies to empower children to contribute to a peaceful and sustainable world. The book contains authentic case studies and reflective questions, and explores the key United Nations foundational documents supporting children's global citizenship rights.

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6



Children's Rights Book 1

Anne Kennedy

Advocate for the rights of our youngest citizens with *Children's Rights Book 1*, the first of two books that put children's rights legislation into practical terms for educators. With in-service examples and reflective questions to prompt thinking, these books give you the knowledge and confidence needed to start conversations with children, colleagues and families about respecting children's rights. Book 1 unpacks the key documents that protect children's rights in Australia and explores ways you can make these rights visible in your service.

Quality Area: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6



Children's Rights Book 2

Anne Kennedy

Put your knowledge to use and champion the rights of our youngest citizens with *Children's Rights Book 2*. This second book pushes you further to think about your important role in the process of being and becoming a child rights-focused service. It includes clear, simple strategies and case studies that explain how implementing a service philosophy ensures children's rights are prioritised by educator teams, children and families. This book also expands the discussion of international human rights by outlining how the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* applies to the Australian early childhood education and care context.

Quality Area: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6



Including Children with Disability or Developmental Delay

By Jane Warren and Blake Stewart

When children have disabilities or developmental delays, educators can sometimes worry about whether they have the skills and knowledge to effectively include children with diverse learning needs. This book provides practical ideas to support educators to ensure all children have opportunities to participate within the service, and that diversity of children with disability or developmental delay is respected and valued.

Quality Area: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Professional learning topics

Reconciliation and cultural responsiveness



Reconciliation in children's education and care: Taking the first steps

Presenters: Jo Goodwin and Catharine Hydon

Quality Area: 1, 6

APST: 2, 4

Subscription

Take the first steps towards embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and reconciliation into your practice. By referencing the truth about Australia's history, this course explains how knowledge and personal beliefs may impact your experience of reconciliation and how they form the foundation for building reconciliation in education and care practice.



Every child has the right to be included

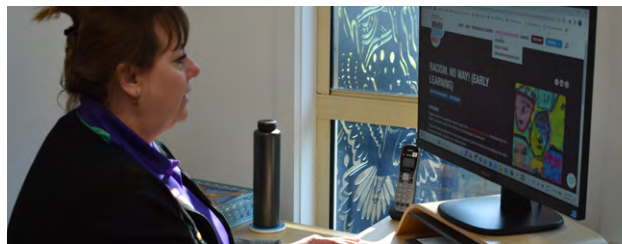
Presenter: ECA Learning Hub

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6

APST: 1, 6, 7

Subscription

This course aims to assist educators in developing their understanding of what it means to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to feel a genuine sense of belonging within their early learning community. It is specifically designed to offer early childhood professionals the skills to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families looking through a cultural lens.



Initiating a Reconciliation Action Plan: Where do I start?

Presenter: Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education

Quality Area: 3, 4, 6

APST: 2, 3, 6

Subscription

This course will introduce early childhood professionals to the concept and context of reconciliation in education and where to start when initiating a Reconciliation Action Plan. It supports practitioners in leadership roles to understand the Reconciliation Action Plan process and best support their team in initiating, developing and implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan.



Acceptance, justice and equality: Exploring reconciliation in early childhood education and care

By Catharine Hydon and Adam Duncan

Quality Area: 1, 4, 6, 7

This book aims to support early years practitioners in exploring reconciliation with young children and provides ideas for reflection and action towards a reconciled Australia. Reconciliation is brought to life through the voices of a range of early childhood professionals working in the sector, and their stories offer concrete, accessible and meaningful examples of action, which other educators can use to inform their own reconciliation work.



Working in intercultural ways

This unique collaboration between the ECA Learning Hub and the Koori Curriculum focuses on intercultural approaches, prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educator voices from around Australia.

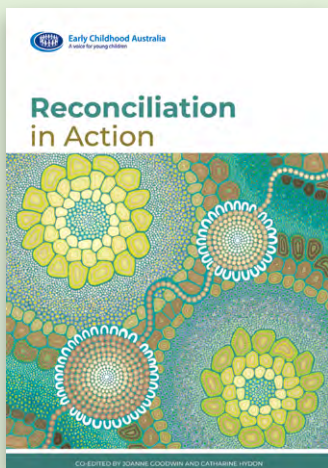
In these two courses, you will explore resources, stories and practical strategies to guide reconciliation and cultural responsiveness through both a relational and practical lens.

Each course presents diverse perspectives, with an emphasis on practical implementation and reflection. Case studies and interviews showcase a range of viewpoints to consider and unpack, encouraging thoughtful and ethical approaches to reconciliation and community connections.

Developed in partnership by:



Reconciliation in Action



Take the next step in your reconciliation journey with this curated collection of stories. These stories capture the essence of what reconciliation is about: a collaborative partnership between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the broader Australian community.

Discover case studies, scenarios and provocations to help guide your everyday implementation of reconciliation. Developed from the early learning and care sector's desire to commit to and enact reconciliation, this easy-to-use resource will support you in bringing reconciliation into action.

Reconciliation in Action joins a growing effort to demonstrate that our country is serious about being reconciled with its past by investing in our future—in our children.

Progressing reconciliation is crucial, but at times can be challenging and slow. It can also be inspiring and energising, and open a world of possibilities. The stories contained in this resource are a testament to that. The more you can hear differing world views and articulate your own view, the more learning opportunities you will have about other ways to see the world.

Access, participation and positive outcomes: Inclusion in early childhood

Access, participation and positive outcomes: Inclusion in early childhood is a free resource for educators at any stage in their career. The resource is a curated collection of innovative online professional learning resources to support inclusive practices in early childhood education and care settings. This collection of free resources aims to support increased knowledge, skills and confidence in the inclusion of children with a diagnosed disability, as well as children with other factors that may affect their general wellbeing and engagement in early learning.

Short, online, self-paced professional learning courses:

- Introducing inclusion: Looking at diversity and adversity through an inclusive framework
- Creating a community of support for children and families experiencing vulnerability
- Being the champion for children who are impacted by trauma and adversity
- Making connections with neurodiverse children through play (2-part series)
- Understanding young children's behaviour and empowering their future (2-part series)
- Big life events: Impacts on children, families and communities
- Fostering trusting relationships to support children with anxiety
- Every child has a right to be included

**FREE
ONLINE
RESOURCES**

Downloadable e-books

These downloadable e-books include practical approaches to supporting children's development.

Animations in accessible language

A series of short animations presents essential concepts about children and early childhood education and care to support the development of foundational knowledge of early childhood pedagogy and inclusive practices:

- Being present and in tune with children
- Respectful nappy change and toileting routines
- Transitions and relationships
- Active supervision
- Creating an environment to foster play



A podcast series

Series two of the ECA Podcast has been tailored to strengthen the way early childhood educators understand different aspects of inclusion. Australia is rich with diverse families and children that make up our society. Educators play a critical role in supporting those who have historically been seen as less than able or not as capable due to their differences. Using a variety of expert voices, we bring you this podcast to assist you in reflecting on what inclusion means to you and how to develop strategies appropriate for your context.



**LISTEN
NOW**

Championing family diversity in early childhood

All families are different. Children from diverse families, including those with LGBTQ+ parents, experience increased disadvantage and suffering. All education and care services need to be proactive in designing welcoming environments and planning for education on family diversity, even if the service does not yet have many or any diverse families. Early childhood education and care services are positioned to reduce discrimination and disadvantage for diverse families through the practical and embedded celebration of family diversity.

This carefully curated collection of resources is designed to empower educators to become confident in educating children about family diversity, including LGBTQ+ parent families with sensitivity and openness. By integrating family diversity education into their practices, educators will play a pivotal role in creating a future generation that embraces differences and acknowledges every family's unique makeup.



Beyond the rainbow: Making a difference for all families

Quality Area: 1, 5, 6

APST: 4, 7

Subscription

In this course you will learn about the diversity of families, specifically LGBTQ+ parent families, and how diversity is a positive part of Australian society. You will learn how to create learning opportunities for birth to eight-year-olds that enable children to explore family diversity in an education and care setting.



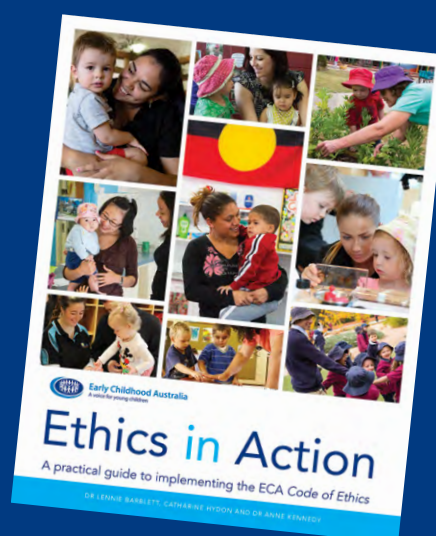
Early Childhood Australia
Professional Learning



Scan to purchase

Ethics in Action—A Practical Guide to Implementing the ECA Code of Ethics

This essential and practical 95-page guide to the ECA Code of Ethics clearly explains what 'code of ethics' means in everyday practice. Developed from the early learning and care sector's desire to commit to and enact ethics in daily practice, this easy-to-use publication includes case studies, scenarios and provocations to support you in bringing ethics into action!





Understanding brain development

This free program will introduce you to the interactions, relationships and environments that lay the foundation for healthy brain development. It will provide you with an increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of the foundational concepts of neuroscience, including how positive development in the early years sets children up for a lifetime of learning, health and wellbeing.

There will be opportunities to explore neuroplasticity, the impacts of stress and trauma on brain development, and the important role of 'serve and return' interactions and executive functioning in supporting a child's wellbeing. There will be information on strategic framing, best practice and 'what works' examples to improve children's mental health, development and wellbeing in your work context.



eSafety

The eSafety professional learning course are unique professional learning opportunities developed by the eSafety Commissioner and Early Childhood Australia.

The course is part of the *eSafety Early Years Program*, which provides online safety advice and tips within a positive framework for prior-to-school-aged children, their parents, carers and educators in an Australian context.

eSafety is Australia's independent statutory office for online safety established under the *Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015*. The Act gives the Commissioner the power to investigate and act on complaints about serious cyber-bullying material targeted at an Australian child. In 2017, the Act was expanded to promote and enhance online safety for all Australians. eSafety resources include programs for schools, women and older Australians, and new resources for early childhood.

Developed in partnership by:



COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

ECA Communities of Practice

ECA's Community of Practice (CoP) is a vibrant online community designed for teams of early childhood professionals at all stages of their careers to come together and connect around a particular topic. The CoP is an opportunity for early childhood professionals to learn with and from each other in the context of their team.

Each CoP contains carefully curated professional learning resources to expand your team's knowledge base on the chosen topic area. You will also engage with specially selected professional learning materials to facilitate conversation about pedagogy and practice.

As part of the ECA CoP, you will:

- expand your knowledge on the chosen topic area
- engage in a number of online forums and live online events
- be constructively challenged by your facilitator
- have the opportunity to cultivate ongoing professional relationships within your team
- be actively involved in critically reflective dialogue
- design and implement an action research project based on your team's needs
- shift your pedagogical practices as they relate to play-based learning in early childhood
- participate in and engage with ECA Learning Hub resources that will extend your thinking.

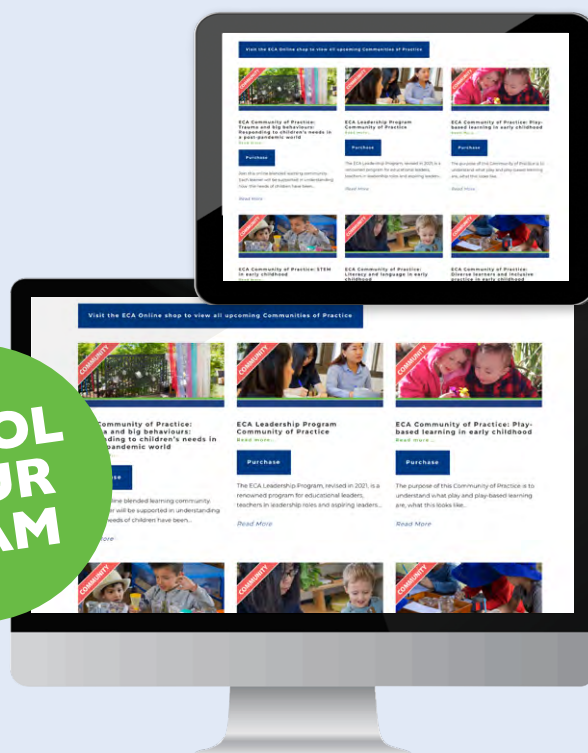
Elements of Communities of Practice

- Professional learning materials
- Online learning courses
- ECA publications
- Live events
- An action research project
- Online forums through the ECA Learning Hub online portal

Popular topics

- Behaviour guidance
- Children's safety
- ECA Leadership Program
- Play-based learning in early childhood
- Literacy and language in early childhood
- ECA Management Fundamentals Program

**ENROL
YOUR
TEAM**



Act for Kids

Act for Kids: Learn to be safe—Early years

The ECA Learning Hub, in partnership with Act for Kids, is proud to launch Learn to be safe—Early years, a program designed to build confidence and skills in teaching protective behaviours. Through one hour of online learning, 11 short 'how-to' videos, downloadable resources and a safety thread learning guide, educators will gain practical strategies to support children in understanding safety, body autonomy and consent, while also preparing adults to respond protectively to tricky conversations and disclosures.



Partnership

ECA is proud to partner with Act for Kids! This collaboration brings a course offering on protective behaviours to the ECA Learning Hub. It supports children and adults in identifying unsafe situations and taking action to increase safety. The course focuses on four key areas: feeling safe, safe choices, body safety, and people and safety.

About Act for Kids:

Act for Kids is a for-purpose organisation that delivers evidence-led professional therapy and support services to children and families who have experienced or are at risk of harm.

Our dedicated team of psychologists, speech therapists, early education specialists, counsellors, occupational therapists and family support workers have helped hundreds of thousands of children and families since 1988.

Act for Kids operates 34 centres across Australia and has a team of over 490 staff from Adelaide all the way up to the Cape York Peninsula. Our services have expanded to include integrated therapy, support for vulnerable families, special workshops to empower children and safe houses in remote Aboriginal communities.

Through prevention, treatment, research, education and advocacy, we are committed to supporting thousands of children, young people and their families.



Early Childhood Australia
Learning Hub



ECA Publications

ECA has been producing innovative and essential early childhood publications and resources for more than 50 years. ECA is a leading and reputable early childhood publisher with a dedicated team of editors and designers who are passionate about their work and can guarantee the excellence and usefulness of our publications. All publications are quality assured, up to date and written by experienced early childhood professionals.



Everyday Learning Series

Aimed at early childhood educators, students of early education and beginning practitioners, this popular publication draws upon the endless possibilities offered by everyday experiences and provides simple ideas on how to create positive learning environments for young children and enhance their interactions with the world around them. The *Everyday Learning Series* is available for purchase individually or as part of a subscription.



Research in Practice Series

The *Research in Practice Series* (RIPS) is a practical, evidence-based resource offering effective new approaches for those challenging issues which arise in the care and education of young children. The books are idea-rich and focus on the practical 'hands-on' aspects of early childhood, making them ideally suited to experienced early childhood professionals. The *Research in Practice Series* is available for purchase individually or as part of a subscription.



Every Child magazine

Every Child magazine puts the spotlight on the early years of childhood. Published quarterly and beautifully designed in full colour, it contains informative articles on issues such as health, education and social trends, as well as book reviews, profiles and guest statements from well-known early childhood practitioners and experts. Articles not only focus on aspects of early childhood at a local level but also investigate political and national developments.

Aimed at anyone involved in the care and education of young children, *Every Child* is topical, diverse and always entertaining. Members of ECA receive a complimentary copy of *Every Child* magazine as part of their membership.



Australasian Journal of Early Childhood

The *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood* (AJEC) is Australasia's foremost scholarly journal and the world's longest-running major journal within the early childhood sector. AJEC offers research-based articles that are designed to impart new information and encourage the critical exchange of ideas among early childhood practitioners, academics and students. To enable this key work to reach a broader audience, ECA partners with SAGE on the publication and dissemination of AJEC.

AJEC is available for purchase individually or as part of a subscription.

ECA Essentials

The ECA Essentials are for people educating and caring for children in the age group of birth to eight years. With a practical emphasis and written in easily accessible language, these books are an ideal resource for children's services educators, teachers, families and others interested in the care and education of young children.



Music in Early Childhood is recommended for educators, teachers and families of young children who wish to learn how to incorporate music into their time with children. This could be including songs or music into daily routines or creating a new musical program with a strong research foundation. Both emerging and established educators can benefit from the wide range of suggested learning experiences, or gather some new resources to enhance their knowledge of music and teaching methodologies.

Sustainability in Early Childhood starts by looking at the big picture and exploring key changes in thinking over time. This text offers both theoretical and pedagogical insights as foundational for engaging with sustainability. The authors encourage critical reflection and action steps for change in your service and challenge you to robustly step forward on all sustainability fronts.



Sensory Development in Early Childhood is the comprehensive go-to guide for anyone who wants to increase their understanding of children's sensory experiences, which are central to their early learning and overall cognitive, social and emotional development. Through case studies and reflective questions, teams in early childhood education and care settings will learn how to plan an environment for children that is rich in sensory experiences and support critical thinking about how children interact and respond to those experiences.

Literature in Early Childhood will transform how you use picture books in your early learning environment. Reading in early childhood is crucial for lifelong learning achievement. Children's literature that represents diverse cultures, practices and perspectives offers invaluable chances to educate our youngest citizens about the world. With practical advice on how to spark children's curiosity and support development through reading experiences, this book has everything you need to bring stories to life and offer endless opportunities for learning.



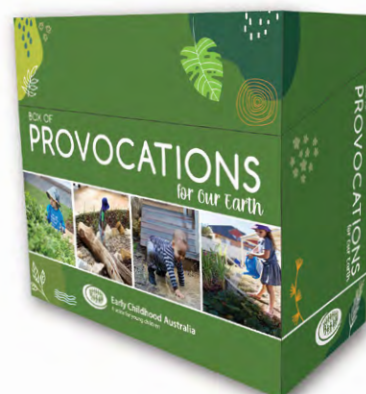
ECA Signature publications and resources

Box of Provocations

ECA's unique *Box of Provocations* series is designed to support critical reflection, discussion, debate and deeper thinking around a range of topics such as professional practice, leadership and sustainability.

- The *Box of Provocations for Early Childhood Educators* by Anne Stonehouse is a collection intended to support critical reflection, discussion, debate and deeper thinking about teaching, learning and what it means to be a professional educator.
- The *Box of Leadership Provocations* is for leaders at all levels of early childhood education and care. This resource has been written by six of Australia's leading early childhood experts: Anne Stonehouse, Anthony Semann, Susan Irvine, Catharine Hydon, Michelle Gujer and Leanne Gibbs.
- The *Box of Provocations for our Earth* focuses on sustainability and nature pedagogy. The provocations across eight different themes, written by experts from the fields of sustainability and nature pedagogy, will prompt you to find different ways of doing things—perhaps even undergo mindshifts about what you value and how you see the world.

Beautifully presented and made to last, these will be a popular resource in your service for many years to come.

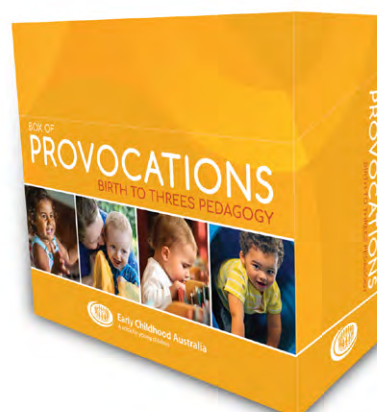


Box of Provocations: Birth to Threes Pedagogy

Reflect, act and evolve with ECA's newest *Box of Provocations*. Provoke deeper thinking and discussion among educators with the new *Box of Provocations: Birth to Threes Pedagogy*.

Based on Anne Stonehouse's encounters with her grandchild, these cards gift readers with an insight into Anne's longstanding beliefs as an early childhood professional, her current thinking and her evolving perspective as a grandmother. The cards address a variety of topics, including good practice, controversial issues and matters that may seem inconsequential but can lead to constructive change.

Support critical reflection, discussion, debate and deeper thinking in your service today!



Start a conversation today with
ECA's Box of Provocations



ECA Events

ECA hosts a number of important events each year, with options to attend virtually and in person. The biggest event on the ECA events calendar is the ECA National Conference, with over 2,000 early childhood professionals from across Australia and internationally attending each year. Our other key events include the ECA Reconciliation Symposium and the AJEC Research Symposium. Alongside these, we collaborate with governments and other organisations throughout the year to present virtual events and workshops and also offer bespoke or custom events for our sector.



- 2026 Early Childhood Australia, National Conference, 30 September–3 October 2026



- *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood* (AJEC) Research Symposium. Dates to be announced soon



- Reconciliation Symposium, 1–2 May 2026, Tarntanya, Adelaide



- 2026 Regional, Rural and Remote Early Childhood Forum. Dates to be announced soon

Australasian Journal of Early Childhood (AJEC) Research Symposium

We invite early childhood practitioners, researchers, leaders, academics and students to exchange ideas, innovative research methodologies and findings. The symposium will also discuss the latest research and pedagogical practice from the longest-running and most highly regarded academic journal within the early childhood sector, produced by ECA, the *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood* (AJEC).

ECA Reconciliation Symposium

The ECA Reconciliation Symposium brings the matter of reconciliation in early childhood into the spotlight and works towards a better future for all Australians. The symposium is held over two days and will be highly interactive with various speakers and presenters with ideas to build on your reconciliation journey.

Regional, Rural and Remote Early Childhood Forum

The Regional, Rural and Remote Early Childhood Forum, brought to you by ECA, is an event dedicated to empowering early childhood professionals working in, and together with, regional, rural and remote communities. This forum provides a unique opportunity to connect with peers, build lasting networks, and learn from sector experts and researchers, all while focusing on the distinct challenges and opportunities facing early childhood education and care in these areas.



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

Children's safety and safeguarding

ECA has established the Rapid Response Taskforce, a team of experts in child sexual abuse prevention and safeguarding. This expanded and collaborative focus on child safeguarding aims to collate and develop a range of expert-informed resources available to education and care professionals across Australia.



To stay up to date with the latest Professional Learning resources, sign up to our mailing list

Find out more



Professional learning that supports practice across the *National Quality Standard*

ECA's publications and online learning resources are mapped to the quality areas of the *National Quality Standard* to support your quality improvement journey.

ECA Learning Hub online courses	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A good place to be a child: Creating effective early learning environments	✓	✓	✓				
ABC Kids: Exploring science content knowledge with Imagine This	✓				✓	✓	
Acting ethically: Exploring the ECA <i>Code of Ethics</i>						✓	✓
Action research in behaviour guidance: The Phoenix Cups® approach (2-part series)					✓		✓
An insight into Autism Spectrum Disorder in the early years (2-part series)	✓				✓		
Anti-bias approaches in early childhood	✓					✓	
Being the champion for children impacted by trauma and adversity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework (V2.0)				✓			✓
Beyond the rainbow: Making a difference to all families	✓					✓	
Big life events: Impacts on children, families and communities	✓				✓	✓	
Bullying and harassment for employees				✓			
Bullying and harassment for managers and supervisors				✓			✓
Communication in the workplace				✓			
Creating a community of support for children and families experiencing vulnerability					✓	✓	
Dealing with stress, pressure and burnout in education settings							✓
Delving deeper into documenting and assessing children's learning	✓					✓	✓
Developing and maintaining a Quality Improvement Plan	✓			✓			✓
Documenting and assessing children's learning with Dr Anne Kennedy	✓				✓	✓	
Duty of care: Work health and safety in education and care		✓	✓	✓			✓
Dysregulation and maladaptive behaviours in young children (2-part series)	✓				✓	✓	
Emotion coaching: A transformational tool	✓		✓		✓		
Engaging with digital documentation and technology (3-part series)	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Engineering creativity: Celebrating loose parts play for all ages	✓		✓		✓		
Environments for learning: Intentional spaces	✓		✓				

ECA Learning Hub online courses	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ethics and the EYLF—ECA in conversation				✓			
Every child has a right to be included	✓				✓	✓	✓
Exploring play-based digital learning	✓	✓					
Fostering trusting relationships to support children with anxiety	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fundamental movement skills—Beyond the basics	✓	✓	✓				
Inappropriate discipline		✓			✓		✓
Incorporating meaningful movement in every day	✓	✓	✓				
Indoor environments: Spaces for children	✓		✓				
Induction essentials: A beginners guide to education and care				✓			✓
Initiating a Reconciliation Action Plan: Where do I start?				✓		✓	
Introducing inclusion: Looking at diversity and adversity through an inclusive framework	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Introduction to the <i>National Quality Framework</i> for early childhood education and care				✓			✓
Let's talk: Creating a culture of learning—Places for teaching and learning for everyone	✓			✓			✓
Making connections with neurodivergent children through play (2-part series)					✓		
Managing challenging exchanges: Responding professionally				✓			✓
Maths is everywhere	✓		✓				
Music in early childhood (2-part series)	✓				✓	✓	
My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care (V2.0) (2-part series)	✓			✓			
NAIDOC Week: Stories of practice	✓				✓	✓	
Partnerships with families					✓	✓	
Partnerships with families for inclusive practice (2-part series)	✓				✓	✓	
Philosophy leading strategy (3-part series)	✓			✓			✓
Planning for nutritional wellbeing			✓				
Play-based learning: Using the Pedagogical Play Framework	✓		✓		✓		
Playing with gratitude		✓		✓			✓
Privacy awareness in children's services						✓	✓
Professionalism and identity in early childhood education and care: Who we are and what we do				✓			✓

ECA Learning Hub online courses	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Professionalism, paperwork and pedagogy: Leading professional practice in long day care	✓						✓
Putting art in place (2-part series)	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Putting children first: Child safe organisations	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Reconciliation in children's education and care: Taking the first steps	✓					✓	
Rediscovering the planning cycle: EYLF (V2.0)	✓						
Rediscovering the planning cycle: MTOP (V2.0)	✓						
Respect: A guide to calm and nurturing infant care and education	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Responding to harmful sexual behaviours: Birth to five		✓					
Responding to harmful sexual behaviours: OSHC		✓					
Routines and transitions: Embracing opportunities for learning	✓				✓		
Settling multiple children in early childhood education and care		✓	✓				
STEM inquiry: Co-constructed environments for curious minds	✓				✓	✓	
Supporting bilingualism during early childhood	✓					✓	
Supporting children's self-regulation: Ages 3–5 years	✓		✓		✓		
Supporting children's self-regulation: Birth to three years	✓		✓		✓		
Supporting healthy eating behaviours in early childhood	✓	✓	✓				
Supporting language development in the early years	✓				✓	✓	
Take me outside: An introduction to outdoor learning	✓		✓				
Taking notice and taking care				✓			✓
The art of leading in challenging times							✓
The value of play	✓				✓		
Understand the role: Nominated supervisor and person in day-to-day charge in education and care				✓			✓
Understanding young children's behaviour and empowering their future (2-part series)	✓				✓	✓	
Using critical reflection	✓			✓			✓
Walking with children on their journey to literacy: Practitioner perspectives	✓				✓		
Wellbeing matters: A guide to why wellbeing matters at work				✓		✓	
Wellbeing matters: Let your wellbeing thrive!				✓			✓
Working in intercultural ways	✓					✓	
Working with the ECA Code of Ethics				✓			✓

Collaborations and partnerships online courses	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Act for Kids: Learn to be safe—Early years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Encountering and interpreting the principles of Reggio Emilia Encounters (4-part series)	✓		✓		✓	✓	
eSafety Early Years: Creating a safe online environment	✓		✓				✓
eSafety Early Years: We MAKE and DO with technology	✓		✓				
eSafety Early Years: We SAY and SHARE with technology	✓		✓				
eSafety Early Years: We WATCH and EXPLORE with technology	✓		✓				
Governance and risk management		✓	✓	✓			✓
Learning with nature—Benefit risk assessment	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Charcoal	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Drips, drops and dribbles	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Introduction to mud kitchens	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Introduction to nature pedagogy	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Leaves	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Light and shadow	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Puddles	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Rocks, stones and pebbles	✓	✓	✓				
Learning with nature—Wind	✓	✓	✓				
Participatory Planning—The Floorbooks® Approach (2-part series)	✓				✓		
Participatory planning—The Talking Tubs approach (2-part series)	✓				✓		
Understanding brain development	✓				✓		
Working in intercultural ways	✓					✓	
Your home, your business (2-part series)						✓	✓

ECA Signature publications and resources	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Box of Leadership Provocations				✓		✓	✓
Box of Provocations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Box of Provocations: Birth to Threes Pedagogy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Box of Provocations for Our Earth	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
ECA Essentials: Literature in Early Childhood	✓		✓		✓		
ECA Essentials: Music in Early Childhood	✓	✓			✓		
ECA Essentials: Sensory Development in Early Childhood	✓		✓		✓	✓	
ECA Essentials: Sustainability in Early Childhood	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Ethics in Action—A practical guide to implementing the ECA Code of Ethics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
First year at school: Essential tips for parents and carers		✓			✓	✓	
Reconciliation in Action	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

ECA Publications	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A guide to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures: The important first step to reconciliation	✓				✓	✓	
Active outdoor play	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Attuned routine experiences	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Becoming agents of change through advocacy	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Being and becoming safe on our roads	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Beyond passion: Building professional identity				✓			✓
Beyond the School Day	✓		✓		✓		
Celebrating through relationships	✓				✓	✓	
Children as Global Citizens	✓				✓	✓	
Children's Rights Book 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Children's Rights Book 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Children's rights: Every day and everywhere—Book 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Children's rights: Every day and everywhere—Book 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community participation in early childhood education			✓		✓	✓	
Communicating with children	✓				✓	✓	
Continuous improvement: Supporting quality outcomes for children, families and communities	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Developing a happy, healthy and sustainable early childhood workplace		✓	✓	✓			✓
Early childhood mathematics: Recognise, celebrate and build—Book 1	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Early childhood mathematics: Recognise, celebrate and build—Book 2	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Everyday Assessment	✓				✓	✓	
Exploring literacy in the early years	✓				✓		
Facilitating and extending play-based learning	✓		✓				
Good beginnings last forever	✓				✓	✓	
I have something to say	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Including Children with Disability or Developmental Delay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Including spiritual learning in early childhood education and care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Infant Group Interactions	✓				✓		
Infant Sleep	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intergenerational programs	✓				✓	✓	✓
Leadership-as-practice in early childhood education and care settings							✓

ECA Publications	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Learning and development in the first three years	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Learning to read	✓				✓		
Living spaces—Indoor learning environments	✓		✓		✓		
Making infant and toddler learning visible: Stories of change	✓				✓		
Mentoring in early childhood education: A dynamic professional relationship				✓			✓
Mindset matters	✓		✓		✓		
Nature's laboratory: STEM Learning in the outdoors	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Play-based learning and intentionality	✓		✓		✓		✓
Promoting infant–toddler cognitive learning and development	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Putting children first: Child safe organisations	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Risky play and the outdoors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Safe and secure: Group-based transitions	✓				✓	✓	
Schematic Play	✓		✓				
Self-regulation of emotions	✓				✓		
Sensory play and learning	✓		✓				
Stepping back and stepping in: Promoting children's agency	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Supporting the wellbeing of parents and carers					✓	✓	
Supporting young children experiencing parental separation and divorce		✓			✓		
Systematic approaches to documentation, assessment and evaluation	✓					✓	✓
The Circle of Security: Roadmap to building supportive relationships	✓				✓	✓	
Transition to school: Communication and relationships						✓	
Trauma-aware early childhood education and care	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Visual arts in early childhood settings	✓		✓		✓		
Working in partnership with families facing adversity						✓	

Programs	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Breaking outdoors: Advancing outdoor Learning	✓	✓	✓				
ECA Leadership Program	✓		✓		✓	✓	
ECA Management Fundamentals Program	✓		✓				✓
Understanding and guiding behaviour: The 6Rs Framework	✓				✓	✓	

ECA Digital Library exclusive publications	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Acceptance, justice and equality: Exploring reconciliation in early childhood education and care	✓			✓		✓	✓
Agency in the early years	✓				✓		
Being adventurous	✓	✓	✓				
Belonging: At the heart of relating to others					✓		
Children's behaviour: A guiding approach	✓	✓			✓		
Children's sexual development and behaviour—Pants aren't rude	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Connecting with babies	✓				✓	✓	
Connecting with toddlers	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Creativity and young children: Wondering, exploring, discovering, learning	✓		✓		✓		
Critical reflection as a tool for change: Stories about quality improvement							✓
Cultural inclusion	✓				✓	✓	✓
Documenting children's learning	✓					✓	✓
Everyday Learning about babies as amazing learners	✓				✓	✓	
Executive function in the early years	✓		✓		✓		
Families: Where learning begins	✓				✓	✓	
Gifted and talented: Inclusion and exclusion	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Helping children with difficult things		✓			✓	✓	
Intentional teaching of cultural competence in play-based settings: A cultural-historical view	✓					✓	
Intentional teaching: Acting thoughtfully, deliberately and purposefully	✓					✓	
Kids in the kitchen	✓	✓				✓	
Learning positive behaviour through educator–child relationships		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Living spaces—Indoor learning environments	✓		✓		✓		
Maths and numeracy	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Meaningful conversations with children	✓				✓	✓	
Including Children with Disability or Developmental Delay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Including spiritual learning in early childhood education and care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

ECA Digital Library exclusive publications	Quality Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Infant Group Interactions	✓				✓		
Infant Sleep	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Music and children	✓				✓	✓	
Partnerships—Working together in early childhood settings						✓	✓
Pedagogy: Programs and relationships in practice	✓						✓
Physical activity—Helping children grow	✓		✓		✓		
Play and quality in early childhood: Educating superheroes and fairy princesses	✓		✓		✓		
Professional partnerships in children's services: Working together for children						✓	✓
Reflection as a tool for quality: Working with the <i>National Quality Standard</i>	✓						✓
Rethinking routines: Opportunities for learning	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Secure transitions: Supporting children to feel secure, confident and included					✓	✓	
Sensory play and learning	✓		✓		✓		
STEM in early childhood education	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Stories from the Heart: Connecting children and families with our Earth	✓		✓			✓	
Strengthening quality through critical reflection and action research	✓		✓	✓			✓
Supporting brain development	✓				✓		
Supporting children's creativity in early childhood education	✓		✓				
Supporting literacy learning in the early years	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Supporting young children to ask productive questions	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Talking and learning	✓				✓	✓	
Technology: Our tool not our master	✓				✓		✓
The <i>Early Years Learning Framework</i> : Essential reading for the <i>National Quality Standard</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The role of fathers in children's early learning						✓	
Transitions in children's everyday lives	✓				✓	✓	
Ways of thinking, acting and relating about sustainability	✓		✓			✓	

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