



# National Quality Framework

## What the NQF means for you

The National Quality Framework (NQF) for Early Childhood Education and Care helps ensure your child is given the best possible start in life.

The NQF has new quality standards to improve education and care across long day care, family day care, preschools, kindergartens and outside school hours care services.

## Benefits for families

- greater individual care and attention for children
- better support for children's learning and development
- educators with increased skills and qualifications
- improved educator to child ratios in most services
- a new rating system of education and care services.

## New quality rating system

The National Quality Standard is part of the NQF. It sets a higher benchmark for all children's education and care services across Australia.

Your service will be given a rating for each of these seven quality areas, and an overall rating.

**1** Educational program and practice

**2** Children's health and safety

**3** Physical environment

**4** Staffing arrangements

**5** Relationships with children

**6** Partnerships with families and communities

**7** Leadership and service management

## Ratings against the National Quality Standard

Your child's service will most likely receive one of the three middle ratings below.

The assessment and rating system has been designed so families and educators understand what quality education and care is, and that quality will grow and develop – this is continuous improvement.

You can be assured that services take health and safety seriously. Your child's safety and health are important all day, every day.

### Significant Improvement Required

Service does not meet one of the seven quality areas or a section of the legislation and there is an unacceptable risk to the safety, health and wellbeing of children.

Immediate action will be taken to address issues.

### Working Towards National Quality Standard

Service may be meeting the National Quality Standard in a range of areas, but there are one or more areas identified for improvement.

### Meeting National Quality Standard

Service meets the National Quality Standard.  
Service provides quality education and care in all seven quality areas.

### Exceeding National Quality Standard

Service goes beyond the requirements of the National Quality Standard in at least four of the seven quality areas.

### Excellent

Service promotes exceptional education and care, demonstrates sector leadership, and is committed to continually improving.

This rating can only be awarded by ACECQA.

Services rated Exceeding National Quality Standard may choose to apply for this rating.

To find out more about the NQF and how it affects you and your child, talk to your service or visit the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website:

[www.acecqa.gov.au/families](http://www.acecqa.gov.au/families)