How is KidsMatter Early Childhood implemented?

Early childhood education and care (ECEC) services implementing KidsMatter Early Childhood are provided with:

- **A framework**: A guiding framework for the initiative and detailed information about each Component of the initiative can be found in the book *KidsMatter Early Childhood: A framework for improving children’s mental health and wellbeing*. Further information about each Component can be found in the Component Literature Reviews.

- **Tools**: Implementation tools such as surveys and planning templates are found in this book—*KidsMatter Early Childhood: Tools and guidelines for implementation*.

- **Support**: A state- or territory-based KidsMatter Early Childhood Facilitator to work with the service to support implementation. You will meet your Facilitator at your ‘Getting Started’ workshop, and they will be available to you by phone and a range of online options.

- **Professional Learning**: Staff will receive Professional Learning in each of the four KidsMatter Components, which will be provided by the Facilitator through a range of methods.

- **Information resources**: A set of information resources for families and educators about a range of topics relevant to young children’s mental health.

- **Programs Guide**: A range of programs targeted at children from birth to five and their families are outlined and explained for those services interested in purchasing programs, getting further training, or finding out more about programs that are being run in their area.

- **Newsletters**: A regular KidsMatter Early Childhood e-Newsletter will provide relevant information to services, linking them to implementation support resources and keeping them updated about the initiative.

- **Posters**: ECEC services receive copies of the five KidsMatter Early Childhood A3- and A4-size posters for display in their service or school.

Some of these resources will be provided to you in hardcopy, and all are available online to download or print at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au).

Implementing KidsMatter Early Childhood requires a coordinated approach from service directors, management, staff, and parents and carers. Services will nominate a KidsMatter Leadership Team which will be assisted by a state- or territory-based KidsMatter Early Childhood Facilitator. The KidsMatter Early Childhood tools and resources provided will help services assess their strengths and identify areas for improvement in each of the four Components of KidsMatter Early Childhood.

KidsMatter Early Childhood involves a continual process of service development that includes celebrating and sharing achievements, relationship building, staff commitment, professional learning, planning, implementation and monitoring. Services are guided through repeated ‘Plan-Do-Review’ cycles, as described on the following page, and are supported through this process by their KidsMatter Early Childhood Facilitator.
Look for the ‘Plan-Do-Review’ symbol throughout this book to help you identify the specific needs and concerns within your service in relation to addressing this component; and to develop, implement and review strategies that best address these.

The planning that results from the KidsMatter Early Childhood ‘Plan-Do-Review’ process is central to achieving service development. During this process your service will be guided through the following phases of planning:

- **Getting Started**
- Planning and setting goals
- Developing an Action Plan
- Implementing the Action Plan
- Reviewing the Action Plan.

This will involve individual staff reflecting on their own practices, as well as group discussions among staff to reflect on how the service as a whole operates. There are also Staff and Family Surveys to help you identify what your service is doing well and areas for development. The planning phase will lead you through setting your service goals, including addressing any potential concerns and exploring possible strategies. This information can then be used to develop Goal Maps and an Action Plan specific to your service.

During this phase your Action Plan will be implemented. This involves all staff being supported and working together to enable your service to achieve its goals. At regular stages during the implementation of your Action Plan, you will be guided to review its progress, share and celebrate your achievements, and make adjustments where necessary.

Once you have implemented your Action Plan and completed its review, you will be ready to begin a new planning stage of the KidsMatter Early Childhood continuous development cycle.