

KidsMatter Early Childhood Component 2: Developing children's social and emotional skills

Family Survey

What is KidsMatter Early Childhood?

KidsMatter Early Childhood is an Australian mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative for early childhood education and care (ECEC) services. It involves the people who can make a difference to children's lives—parents, carers, families, and early childhood staff, along with a range of community and health professionals—working together to support children's mental health. KidsMatter Early Childhood has four Components through which ECEC services can strengthen the protective factors and minimise the risk factors for children's mental health. There are a series of KidsMatter family resources available to you that provide information on how we and your family can work together to foster your child's mental health and wellbeing. These resources and further information and updates on the initiative can be found in the 'Family' section of the KidsMatter Early Childhood website: www.kidsmatter.edu.au.

Component 2: Developing children's social and emotional skills

'Developing children's social and emotional skills', the second KidsMatter Early Childhood Component, is fundamental to children's mental health, which affects their ability to learn. Children's social and emotional skills develop over time, and research has shown that early childhood is the period of greatest development. Young children develop social and emotional skills through relationships with important people

in their lives. Children's social and emotional skills include feeling good about themselves and their abilities; learning how to express, interpret and manage their own and others' feelings; and learning how to interact successfully with other people. The KidsMatter Early Childhood Component 2 Family Resources are here to provide information about how we can work together to optimise the development of children's social and emotional skills.

Why are you being asked to complete this survey?

KidsMatter Early Childhood challenges us as an ECEC service, to reflect on our current practice, identify areas for development and work towards improving the services that we offer to our families, for the benefit of children's mental health and wellbeing. Your family's views are an important part of the KidsMatter Early Childhood planning process. Completing the survey is optional. However, we hope that you will contribute to helping us improve how we develop children's social and emotional skills. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have about completing this survey with any of the staff.

Who will see and use the information you provide by completing this survey?

Surveys will be collated at the ECEC service for our use only. All information you provide in this survey will be treated in confidence and not identified individually.

Surveys are anonymous and we will summarise group responses to guide planning. Responses to this survey will help us to identify our strengths and areas for improvement with respect to developing children's social and emotional skills. You can discuss any concerns that may arise from completing the survey with staff should you wish to do so.



Family Survey Instructions

Completing this survey should take around five minutes. We really appreciate your comments and feedback about how you feel our ECEC service is doing at developing children's social and emotional skills and we value any suggestions you can make.

For questions 1–5, please circle one response that first comes to mind and best fits how you feel about each statement.

For question 6, please feel free to tell us what you think on the lines provided.



1. Our child has a warm, responsive and trusting relationship with at least one member of staff.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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2. Our family is happy with the amount and type of information the ECEC service shares with us about our child's developing social and emotional skills.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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3. The ECEC service responds to children's individual social and emotional developmental needs.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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4. Staff appear supported in their work at the ECEC service.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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5. We believe that children's social and emotional skills influence their mental health and wellbeing.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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6. Is there anything that you would like to see the ECEC service doing more of, or differently, with respect to fostering children's developing social and emotional skills?

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