

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

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Staff 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 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 for children's mental health and minimise the risk factors. There are a series of KidsMatter resources available to you that provide information on how ECEC services and families can work together to foster children's mental health and wellbeing. These resources and further information and updates on the initiative can be found on 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. KidsMatter Component 2 resources are available at our ECEC service and provide further information about what our ECEC service and our families can do 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 current practice, identify areas for development and work towards improving the service that we offer to families, for the benefit of children's mental health and wellbeing. Your views are an important part of the KidsMatter Early Childhood planning process. Completing the survey is optional. However, we hope that you will feel happy to contribute, to help us improve how all staff foster children's developing social and emotional skills. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have about completing this survey with the ECEC service KidsMatter Leadership Team.

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 the ECEC service's KidsMatter Leadership Team should you wish to do so.

Staff Survey instructions

Your views are an important part of the KidsMatter Early Childhood planning process. Responses to this survey will help identify strengths and areas for improvement at your service in terms of developing children's social and emotional skills. It should take around 10 minutes to complete.

For questions 1–15, please circle one response that first comes to mind and best fits how you feel about each statement.

For question 16, please feel free to tell us what you think on the lines provided.



Relationships between children and staff

1. Our ECEC service has policies and practices in place to enable staff to form warm, trusting and responsive relationships with children and families.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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2. Staff are warm, responsive and emotionally 'in tune' with children.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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3. Staff are consistent and predictable in their relationships with children, families and each other.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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4. Staff have knowledge and understanding of each individual child in their care.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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5. I am aware of what 'pushes my buttons' in my interactions and relationships with children, families and colleagues and how this influences children's social and emotional development.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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Children's social and emotional skill development opportunities

6. Our ECEC service has a coordinated approach to developing children's social and emotional skills.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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7. Staff intentionally teach children social and emotional skills.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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8. Staff make the most of spontaneous social and emotional learning opportunities with children.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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9. Staff arrange experiences to foster the development of children’s social and emotional skills.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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10. Children have opportunities to create their own social and emotional learning experiences.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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Staff development and support

11. The ECEC service has a systematic approach to staff development and support.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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12. Staff have opportunities to engage in professional learning and integrate learning to enhance practice.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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13. Staff support and learn from each other through mentoring, professional conversations and/or reflection.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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14. I am confident I have the skills and knowledge to foster children’s developing social and emotional skills.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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15. The ECEC service provides staff with support including leadership, and time to plan, reflect and develop.

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

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