

KidsMatter Early Childhood Component 3: Working with parents and carers



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 3: Working with parents and carers

'Working with parents and carers', the third KidsMatter Early Childhood Component, is fundamental to children's mental health and wellbeing. This is because good partnerships between the people who are involved in the care of a child mean a more comfortable working relationship that benefits the child. Parents and carers also benefit from having a social network around them as they raise their children, as this network can provide emotional, material and informational support, especially during stressful times. When parents and carers feel supported, they tend to use more positive parenting practices, which are advantageous to children's mental health and wellbeing. Other families at your ECEC service can become part of this social network and it can be beneficial to have opportunities to interact with them. Apart from this social network, parents and carers may sometimes want support with parenting and may approach the ECEC service to get some information. Guiding parents and carers towards further high-quality parenting information can be a helpful way to support parenting. KidsMatter Component 3 resources available at your ECEC service provide further information about what your ECEC service and families can do to optimise working with one another.

Why are you being asked to complete this survey?

KidsMatter Early Childhood challenges ECEC services to reflect on current practice, identify areas for development and work towards improving the services they 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 your ECEC service improve how all staff work with parents and carers. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have about completing this survey with your 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 their use only. All information you provide in this survey will be treated in confidence and not identified individually. Surveys are anonymous and the ECEC service will summarise group responses to guide planning. Responses to this survey will help your service to identify its strengths and areas for improvement with respect to working with parents and carers. You can discuss any concerns that may arise from completing the survey with your 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 improvements at your service in terms of working with parents and carers. It should take around 10 minutes to complete.

For questions 1–10, please circle one response that first comes to mind and best fits how you feel about each statement.

For question 11, please feel free to tell us what you think on the lines provided.

General question

1. Our ECEC service takes steps towards building relationships with all parents and carers whose children attend here.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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Collaborative partnerships with families

2. Our ECEC service encourages partnerships with parents and carers.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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3. Our ECEC service considers cultural and family differences when working with parents and carers.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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4. Staff are committed to developing their skills and confidence to form partnerships with parents and carers.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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Connecting families

5. Our ECEC service provides opportunities for families to meet each other and develop support networks.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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6. Staff help families find ways to become involved in the ECEC service, even when families sometimes find it difficult to do this.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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Supporting parenting

7. Our ECEC service has policies and practices in place to support staff and families working together to find parenting resources.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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8. Our ECEC service works with parents and carers to help them find and use high-quality parenting resources.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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9. Staff are developing their knowledge about child development and learning and parenting practices, while considering differences in families' cultural backgrounds.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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10. Staff are developing their skills and confidence to appropriately share their knowledge of child development and learning and parenting practices with parents and carers.

1	Strongly disagree	2	Somewhat disagree	3	Neutral	4	Somewhat agree	5	Strongly agree
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- 11. Is there anything that you would like to see the ECEC service doing more of, or differently, with respect to enabling staff to develop partnerships with parents and carers, to help connect families, and to support parenting?

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