Creating a sense of community helps services give children a good start to life, protects children against mental health difficulties, and supports families and staff.

Strong connectedness makes happy healthy kids and adults.

Yarn
Plan
Think and do
Draw it

Show your mob
Watch, think, redo
Do different ways
Connect to land
Many ways of knowing, being and doing

- Story sharing happens in lots of ways.
- Non-verbal connecting is powerful too.
- Good mental health in early childhood is a foundation for later life.
- Planning and decision making must involve children, families and educators.

Many ways of doing

- Talk with children about relationships. Remind them of their “hub” of relationships regularly.
- Everyone should learn understanding and sensitivity to culture and diversity.
- Share stories with families through their children.
- All staff members show children that the service is about children and their families.

Learning Map—Plan your environment for Belonging

- Help everyone understand how all the planning and plans come together—Draw It! Share it!
- Plan for connectedness in relationships to people and environment, it doesn’t just happen.
- Plan, so every child’s culture, security, relationships and abilities are responded to every day.
- Create representations of each child’s “hub” of relationships.

Connecting to Community

- Make time to seek out people who can help build relationships in diverse communities.
- Provide opportunities for different ways of connecting.
- Engage family members in planning opportunities for connecting to the service.
- Expect that staff maintain connections with the broader community.