Revisiting your Statement of Philosophy

It makes sense that you look at your Statement of Philosophy from time to time, both to meet the requirements of the National Quality Standard as well as ensuring your service philosophy is reflective of your current practice.

Your Statement of Philosophy is a representation of what makes your service unique. It is more than a document that gets written and then filed away. The words should come alive from the page when an outsider is looking in on the daily running of your service. Your Statement of Philosophy is a reflection of what your service is, what it looks like and what it strives to become. It is continually reviewed and is always changing as you welcome new families, learn new things, take on new staff, present new experiences and form new goals.

Looking through the KidsMatter lens

As you move through KidsMatter you will be asked to look at your service through the KidsMatter lens. This means reflecting on questions such as:

- Why do you do what you do?
- What are the principles behind what you do? What are the priorities?
- How does what you do support children’s mental health and wellbeing?
- What more could you do to extend children’s social and emotional learning opportunities?

It also means reviewing your Statement of Philosophy from a range of perspectives; one of these may be mental health. You can use your learnings from KidsMatter to look at your Statement of Philosophy through a mental health lens. You might consider;

- Does it reflect your commitment to children’s mental health and wellbeing?
- Does it really show everything you do to support mental health of children, families and educators?
- Has the whole service community been consulted in developing your Statement of Philosophy?

At Getting Started, some of you might have practiced trying to explain your Statement of Philosophy to families who are part of your service.

- What did this activity reveal to you?
- What links did you find between KidsMatter and your Statement of Philosophy?
- Did you find any gaps in your philosophy?
- How can you support educators in your service to understand and explain your Statement of Philosophy?

Revising your philosophy with KidsMatter in mind

Revisiting your Statement of Philosophy takes time. How you do it is really up to what suits your service needs and staffing arrangements.

You may want to revise your philosophy in stages. For example, after you’ve completed your Component 1 Professional Learning, while it’s still fresh in your mind, you can include your ideas about creating a sense of
community into your philosophy. You may want to leave it until you’ve been through all the KidsMatter Components, taking in the full breadth of what you have learnt, and applying it to your Statement of Philosophy all in one go!

**What resources do we need to revise our Statement of Philosophy?**

Revising your Statement of Philosophy is something that can’t be done without ongoing conversations and continual reflection with all members of your ECEC community.

You may decide to:

- allocate one person to take the lead on revising the philosophy
- form a working group where smaller aspects of the statement can be divided, spreading the workload
- work as a Leadership Team to ensure your Statement of Philosophy represents your group’s understanding of how children’s mental health and wellbeing is central to your work.

You may also like to get some support in modifying your philosophy from your Facilitator.

Whichever way you decide to work on your revisions, getting things going is dependent on:

- time
- leadership
- commitment
- consultation.

**Revising your philosophy is motivating**

Your Statement of Philosophy is something that can really showcase everything your educators, families, children and community contribute to your service. It acknowledges your strengths and highlights the true ‘personality’ of your service.

It is more than just words. You could describe your philosophy as a foundation of everything your service does to nurture and support, children, families and educators.

**Reflective Questions**

- How will your Leadership Team motivate and put in place the vision of your service to support children’s social and emotional learning?
- How will your Leadership Team incorporate new understandings in your Statement of Philosophy and everyday practice?
- If you’re implementing KidsMatter Early Childhood in a primary school, what beliefs underpin your practice?
- How does your service or school use the KidsMatter Guiding Principles to reflect on your practice and philosophy?
Is there anything you need from your Facilitator?

You can call, email or arrange a video conference with your Facilitator, or get in touch on our Facebook page.

More Information

Talking about practice: Revising a service philosophy

National Quality Standard Professional Learning Program e-Newsletter: Our philosophy

National Quality Standard Professional Learning Program e-Newsletter: Revising the service philosophy

Connecting your Statement of Philosophy with KidsMatter Early Childhood, the National Quality Standard and the Early Years Learning Framework