

Name:

Service:

Date:



Professional learning: Creating a sense of community
Topic 2: Relationships

Participant Workbook



Acknowledgement:

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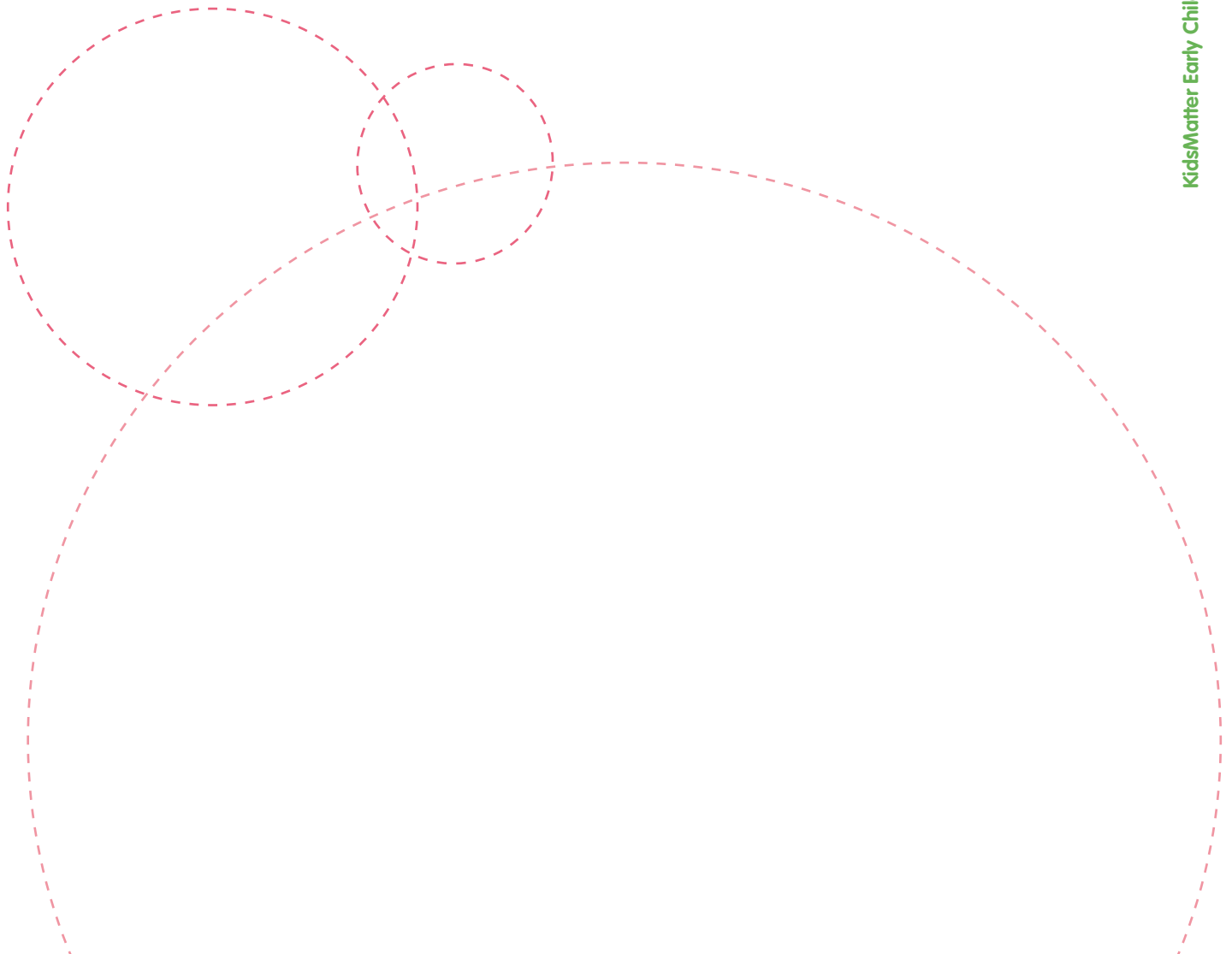
While the resources are available freely for these purposes, to realise the full potential of KidsMatter Early Childhood, it is recommended that the resources be used with the appropriate training and support under the KidsMatter Initiative.

Relationships

The purpose of this topic is to focus on the importance of positive relationships, and how these support children's mental health and wellbeing. Children learn and develop in the context of a 'hub' of relationships, including their families, peers and early childhood educators. When children develop within warm, responsive, and secure relationships it:

- builds their sense of trust in the world
- builds their confidence and sense of identity
- helps the development of social and emotional skills
- builds their sense of belonging and connectedness to their community.

Educators in early childhood services play a key role in establishing and engaging in positive relationships with children, family and other educators.

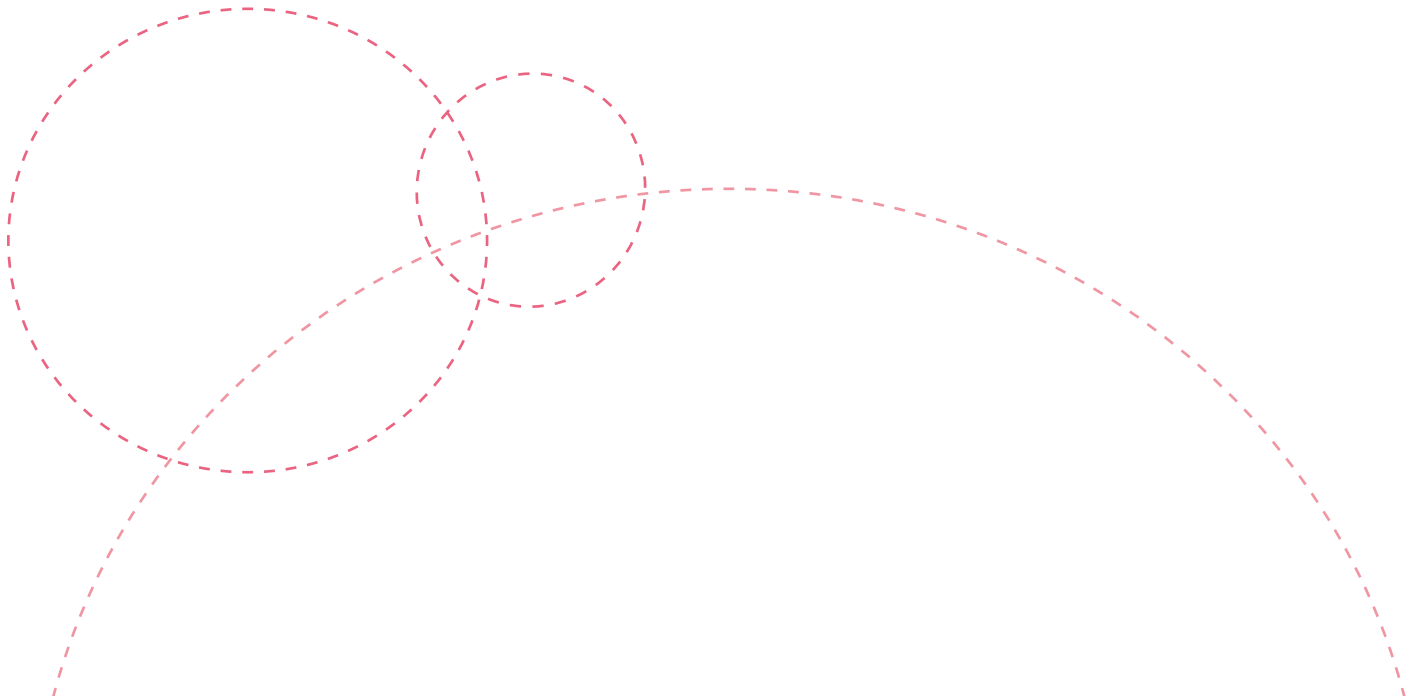




Video 2.1

Relationships in the early years

Relationships in early childhood are very important. Children learn and develop in the context of relationships with others. Record any observations or questions you may have in the space below.

A large, empty white rectangular area intended for recording observations or questions. A faint grey clapperboard icon is visible in the bottom right corner of this area.



Discussion

About relationships

How do each of the relationships children experience in an early childhood community support their development? What might be some unique benefits of each relationship?

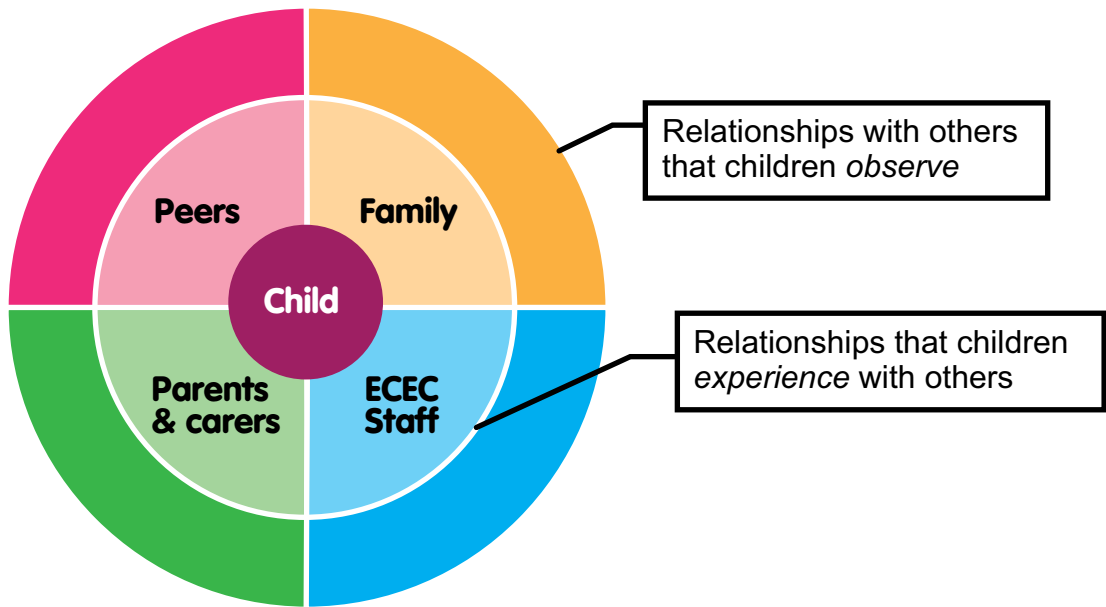
Blank space for discussion notes.

What are the relationships that children observe with others?

Blank space for discussion notes, featuring a large, faint grey speech bubble icon in the bottom right corner.

How does observing these relationships support children's development?

Blank space for writing an answer to the question: "How does observing these relationships support children's development?"



What do each of these relationships provide for children?

Blank space for writing an answer to the question: "What do each of these relationships provide for children?"

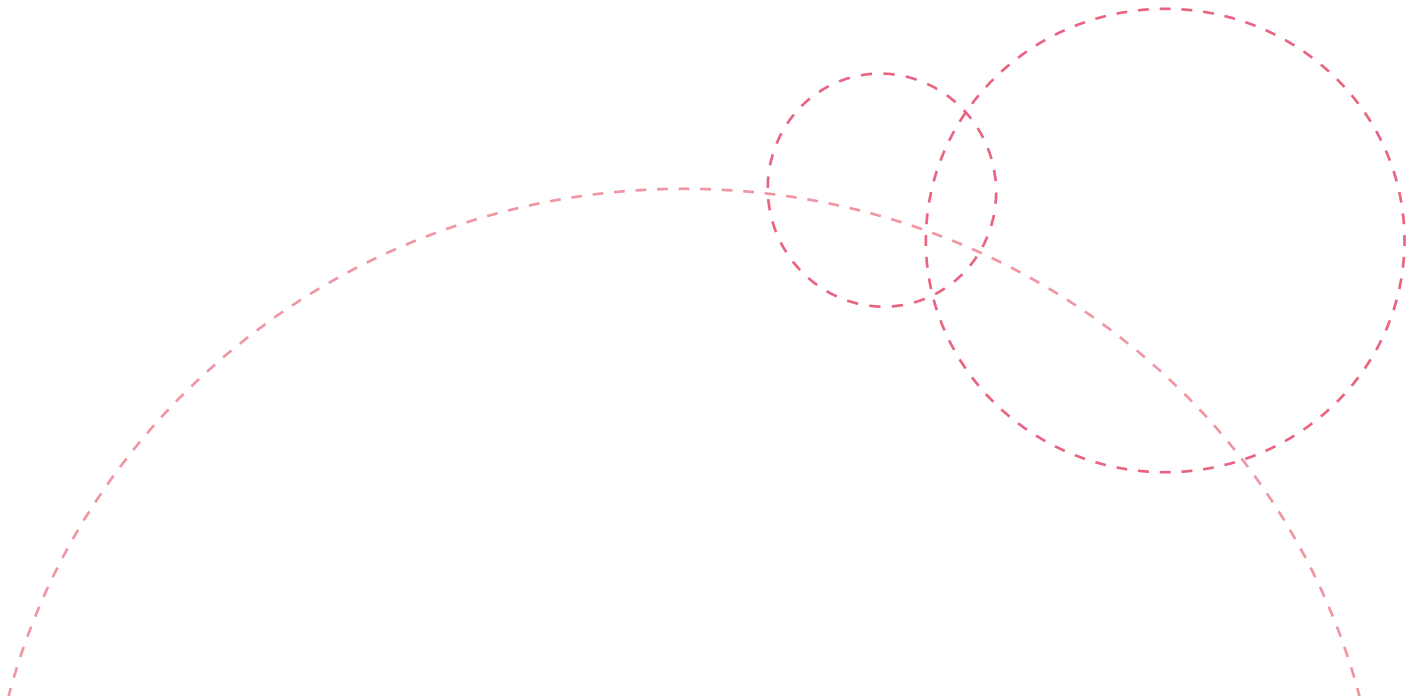




Video 2.2

Positive relationships in an early childhood community

Positive relationships that are characterised by responsiveness, warmth, sensitivity, and respect support children’s mental health and wellbeing. Record any observations or questions you may have in the space below.





Activity

Shared decision making

Three decisions I have made

1.

2.

3.

For each decision, how did working together in a team or with another educator support you in making the decision?



What were the positive characteristics of the relationship that you noticed?

Were there any challenges in working together? How might these have been overcome?

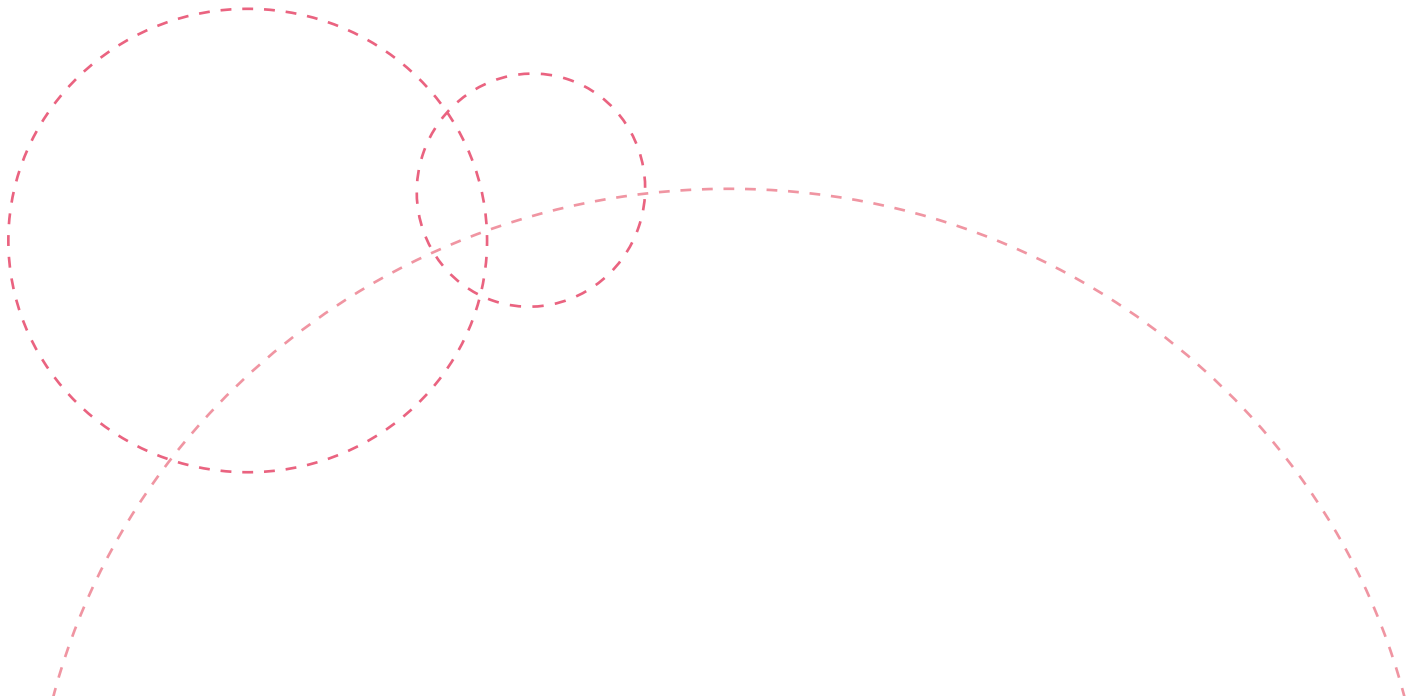




Video 2.3

Working together

When early childhood educators foster positive relationships with each other, it supports their day to day work and sense of wellbeing. Record any observations or questions you may have in the space below.

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Activity

Moving forward

This activity has been designed for you to take away and do before you move on to the next topic. It will help integrate what you have learned during this session.

What is one thing I could do to support the development of positive relationships at my early childhood service?

Over the next week?

Over the next 12 months?

What is one thing we could do as a service to support the development of positive relationships?

Over the next week?

Over the next 12 months?





Reflective questions

Consider a relationship you have built with a child. What characteristics of this relationship do you think are most important?

How might you include the voices of children, educators and families in decision making?

What might be some barriers to building collaborative relationships with others in the early childhood community? How might you try to overcome these?

Wrapping up

Congratulations on completing Topic 2 of KidsMatter Component 1 Professional learning.

For further information and resources about KidsMatter Early Childhood, please visit:

www.kidsmatter.edu.au/ec.



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