

Connecting with your Community

As Family Day Care Educators, it is important to role model strong relationships and connections to the children in our care. Respecting and understanding diversity, and valuing the contributions of others is the foundation for developing cultural competence and forming positive relationships with colleagues, families and the community. When Educators work with others to make connections with the community and develop cultural competence within their service, they are assisting the children to achieve Early Years Learning Framework:

OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD

Children respond to diversity with respect

Building connections within your local area is helped by understanding the history and traditions of your community. By introducing your children to these aspects, you are helping them to feel a sense of belonging.

Below are some strategies for becoming aware of the history of your community and promoting cultural competence in a two way process with others.

Invite parents, grandparents, other Educators, community members and even your Consultant to visit your service to share stories and photographs about living in your local area when they were younger.

Take an excursion to your local aged care facility to interact with the residence. The children can learn so much from interacting with the adults and vice versa! The children can share their interests and beliefs with adults too.



Contact your local Indigenous Centre to arrange an incursion to your service. They can connect the children to the Traditional Land owners and teach them about the history of the area. Ask to be added to their mailing list to find out about community events that you could be involved in.

Follow your local council on Facebook and keep an eye out in newspapers for local events that celebrate our history. You could implement experiences in your service that relate to the celebration, or you could attend events. If the events fall on the weekend, invite your parents to meet you there, or encourage them to attend and share photos with you.

Visit your local museum, parks and gardens, Community Centre, and libraries. Allow the children time to experience their community, and role model being a confident and respectful citizen.

“Teamwork and collaboration, where others’ viewpoints are respected and contributions are acknowledged, are fundamental to the development of trusting relationships.” – Guide to NQS.

Display photos around your service of what your local area looked like in previous years.

Next month we will post more ideas for Belonging to your community. Feel free to post your ideas too!



Holistic
APPROACH F D C