

Connecting with your Community

Changes to the National Quality Standard come into effect from February 1 2018. Quality Area 7: Leadership and Management has been revised and will now be named Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership.

QA7 reflects the importance of a strong relationships and respect within the service; a philosophy that is embraced by all; systems, policies and procedures that are easy to follow and cover all aspects of risk management; and having input from all stakeholders about reflection, changes and future planning and quality improvement in the service. Seeking ideas and opinions of families, the HAFDC team, other Educators and your community is a great way to build connections and for stakeholders to feel a sense of belonging within your service.

Also, becoming involved in the reflections of HAFDC is a perfect way to be involved and get your opinions heard, while self-assessing your own practice.

QA7		Governance and Leadership
7.2	Leadership	Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community.
7.2.1	Continuous improvement	There is an effective self-assessment and quality improvement process in place.

Developing your own Quality Improvement Plan demonstrates an exceeding service. Work with your Consultant to identify areas that you would like to improve on, these can be on a business level or a scheme level. The Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) has some great information and templates for QIPs.

Visit http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/Information_Sheets/QualityImprovementPlan.pdf
http://www.acecqa.gov.au/quality-improvement-plan_1

Remember to be ‘SMART’ with your goals.

S: Specific M: Measurable A: Attainable R: Relevant T: Timely

Ensure you record and share your progress.

Invite parents to become involved by displaying your QIP near the sign in area. You could leave provocation questions for them to answer or simply get their feedback on each quality area. For parents who don’t have time to write, you could have a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ question. You could also send out short surveys via email or even have a poll on your Facebook page.



Images accessed from Pinterest

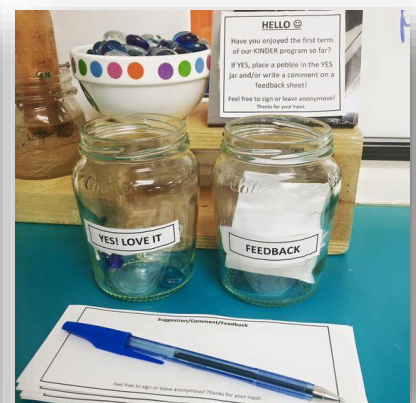
For printable Quality Area posters visit <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/Quality-Area-posters>

Invite community members to add to your QIP too.

Other Educators, playgroup leaders, neighbours, school teachers, and your own family will observe your service is different ways. They can have some great feedback and ideas that may not have crossed your mind. Create a simple survey that you can hand out or just have a chat! You could ask questions such as “In what ways have you seen me communicate with the children?”

“If you could suggest one way to help monitor my children’s safety, what would it be?”

“How do the children interact with members of the community?”



Consider sharing your personal philosophy and HAFDC’s philosophy on your Facebook page. This will not only be a great marketing tool, advertising the way you run your business and your beliefs of caring for children, but also invites discussions about practices, theories and attitudes. You could also share your reflections about your service and environment to give families another aspect of FDC.



Partnerships are based on the foundations of understanding each other’s expectations and attitudes, and build on the strength of each other’s knowledge.

Early Years Learning Framework (Page 12)

Invite others to join you to in being be part of the HAFDC Policy review process. Look out for the policies under review in the Educator newsletter.