

If your child attends an early childhood education and care service (long day care, family day care, out of school hours care or kindergarten) in Victoria, your child's educators will base their work on two complementary 'frameworks': The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework for all *Children from Birth to Eight Years* and the National Framework *Belonging, Being and Becoming: birth to five years*.

The Victorian framework is aligned with the National framework but has been developed for all early childhood professionals working with children from birth to eight years old. The framework assists early childhood professionals to consider how to work with you and your child, and what learning and development outcomes are important and appropriate for young children as they grow and mature.

**These frameworks set high standards for how early childhood professionals work with you and your child.**

The concepts in the frameworks influence your child's whole learning experience (what early childhood professionals call 'the curriculum'): how an early childhood professional speaks with you and your child and; the importance of play as a way for your child to learn.

The frameworks ask early childhood professionals to focus on five important areas of learning when they work with your child. These are called Learning and Development Outcomes:

- Children have a strong sense of **identity**.

- Children are **connected** with and contribute to their world.
- Children have a strong sense of **wellbeing**.
- Children are confident and involved **learners**.
- Children are effective **communicators**.

The five areas of 'learning' are broad, inclusive and interconnected.

It recognises that early childhood is a time of belonging, being and becoming.

Children need to **belong** – to their family, their culture and their community. Without a strong sense of belonging, children cannot learn.

Children need time to experience **being** in the here and now – to play and to try new things. This is how your child learns to make meaning of their world – who they are, where they fit in with others, how to get along with others and how to meet challenges.

Early childhood is also a time of **becoming** – your baby or toddler has already formed an identity that will shape the adult they will become.

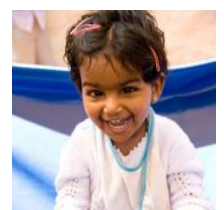
**The frameworks are guides not lesson plans**

Early childhood professionals will keep the five outcomes in mind as they talk to you about your child and plan learning opportunities that build on your child's interests and abilities.

Early childhood professionals will also use the five outcomes as they listen to, watch and talk to your child in order to assess your child's progress and plan for future learning.

**A common way of talking about your child's learning**

Early childhood educators will keep in touch with you regularly to talk about your child's progress against these five learning outcomes. They may use photos, share your child's artwork and write up conversations they have with your child to show you what your child is making, drawing, saying and doing. This helps you appreciate what your child has learned and is learning. They will connect these to the Learning and Development Outcomes so that they can talk to you about what your child is learning.



You can make a difference to your child's learning and development by talking often with your child's early childhood professional about your child's learning at home. This helps early childhood professionals make links between what they observe and what you know.

Before your child starts school, as part of your child's orientation into the new environment of school, you and the early childhood educators will complete a form called the *Transition Learning and Development Statement*. This form includes information about your child's learning and development to share with their new teacher. The early childhood educator will complete a section that talks about how your child meets the five Learning and Development Outcomes.

Every child will take a unique path to the five outcomes and will require different levels of support. If you are concerned about any aspect of your child's learning and development speak to your child's educator, maternal and child health nurse, or doctor.

Other related newsletters can be found at [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

## Related links

- [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework for all Children from Birth to Eight Years](#) (2009)

(N.B: The full frameworks and standards are accessible online as PDFs.)

## You may also like to read

- Helping your child have a strong sense of identity
- Helping your child to connect and contribute to the world
- Helping your child to have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Helping your child to be an effective communicator
- Helping your child be a confident and involved learner

