

BERMAGUI PRESCHOOL



2.09 Educational Leader

Written By

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Aim

Bermagui Preschool acknowledges that early childhood is a time of rapid growth and development and that designating a suitably qualified person is essential in leading the educational program. The Educational Leader has an influential role in inspiring, motivating, affirming and also challenging or extending the practice and pedagogy of educators.

Educational Leader

The program of education and care within an early childhood setting will be founded in service values and philosophy and will be further supported by policy. An Educational Leader, through a collaborative process, involving inquiry and reflection with educators, families and the community, will guide the development of the program of learning and education for children. They will also assist with educator growth in reflection and the understanding of children's learning and development.

The Educational Leader role is part of Quality Area 7 - Leadership and Service Management in the National Quality Standard (NQS). Standard 7.1 in the NQS requires that effective leadership promotes a positive organisational culture and builds a professional learning community. Further to this, element 7.1.4 requires that provision is made to ensure a suitably qualified and experienced educator or coordinator leads the development of the curriculum and ensures the establishment of clear goals and expectations for teaching and learning.

Supporting this, regulation 118 of the Education and Care Service National Regulations requires that the approved provider designate, in writing, a suitably qualified and experienced educator, coordinator or other individual as Educational Leader at the service to lead the development and implementation of educational programs in the service.

When designating an Educational Leader, consideration needs to be given to whether the person is:

- suitably qualified and experienced
- willing to make time for the role and eager to learn more
- approachable and well respected
- knowledgeable about theories, pedagogy and the relevant learning frameworks
- skilled at supporting educators of varying abilities and learning styles
- knowledgeable about the NQS and related regulatory standards.

The most effective Educational Leader views their role as collegial and seeks to play an integral role in mentoring, guiding and supporting educators.

As part of continuous improvement, the Educational Leader should consider what strategies are needed to improve the educational program in the approved service. Strategies might include:

- leading and being part of reflective discussions about practice and implementing the learning framework
- mentoring other educators by leading quality practice
- discussing routines and how to make them more effective learning experiences
- observing children and educator interactions, and making suggestions on how to improve interactions and intentional teaching
- talking to parents about the educational program
- working with other early childhood professionals such as maternal and child health nurses and early childhood intervention specialists
- considering how the program can be linked to the community by working with other community services and groups such as Aboriginal Elders
- establishing systems across the service to ensure there is continuity of learning when children change room or attend other services, and then in their transition to school
- assisting with documenting children's learning and how these assessments can inform curriculum decision making.

Relevant Legislation

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act
Education and Care Services National Regulations

Resources & References

Early childhood Australia. Code of Ethics. Canberra, ACT. Early Childhood Australia. Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Belonging, Being Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. Canberra
Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act
Education and Care Services National Regulations
<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/educational-leadership>
Adapted from the Educational Leaders Association Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EducationalLeadersAssociation, and website: www.educationalleadersela.org
Rodd, J. (1998). *Leadership in early childhood: The pathway to professionalism*. Sydney, NSW: Open University Press.
Siraj-Blatchford, I., & Manni, L. (2007). *Effective leadership in the early years sector: The ELEYS study*. London, UK: Institute of Education, University of London.

Relevant Documentation

7.04 Educational Leader Position Description and Agreement
7.13 Confidentiality Agreement

Date Adopted:

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