The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

What is the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)?
The Early Years Learning Framework is a national statement, produced under the auspices of COAG (the Coalition of Australian Governments), describing and supporting quality early years education in Australia. As it says, ‘The Framework forms the foundation for ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. It has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development. The Framework has been designed for use by early childhood educators working in partnership with families, children’s first and most influential educators.’ (p.5)

Why is the Early Years Learning Framework important?
We know that children are learning from conception and that the early years is a critical period for many important for many aspects of learning e.g. first and second language acquisition, visual perception, fine and gross motor skills, social and emotional development. The EYLF provides a foundation to support educators who are themselves supporting children’s learning.

What will the Early Years Learning Framework look like in practice?
Planning documents will incorporate the learning outcomes of the EYLF. Assessment of children’s learning will demonstrate progress in achieving these learning outcomes. The philosophy of the EYLF will be evident in all education practice of the educators. Information for families and other professional educators will reflect the principles of the EYLF.

What you will not see
• Curriculum divided into learning areas
• Literacy and numeracy activities provided to the exclusion of most or all other learning activities
• No play-based learning experiences
• Play relegated to recess times
• Rigid timetables

Some questions to think about
• How far are you on your journey with implementing the EYLF?
• What support do you need to effectively implement the EYLF? How are you going to get it?

Some things to do
• Share your experiences of implementing the EYLF with your colleagues in your own school or centre – and with others elsewhere.
• Form a mutual support network to help each other implementing the EYLF.

Some more to read
The Early Years Learning Framework

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Forthcoming publications from ECA on *The Early Years Learning Framework*

*The Early Years Learning Framework* website