

NQS Area 1: Program & Practice Checklist

(Aligned to National Quality Standard – Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice)

Use this checklist to reflect on and strengthen your service’s planning cycle, documentation quality, and everyday practice. It supports continuous improvement and provides evidence for Assessment and Rating. Educators can complete it individually or as a team.

1.1 Educational Program

The educational program enhances each child’s learning and development.

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.1.1 Approved learning framework	Is our program guided by EYLF V2.0? Are outcomes and principles visible in documentation?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.1.2 Child-centred program	Does the program reflect children’s interests, strengths, and ideas? Are their voices evident?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.1.3 Program learning outcomes	Are learning outcomes linked to observations and planning? Do families see evidence of learning?

Notes/Actions:

1.2 Practice

Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning and development.

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.2.1 Intentional teaching	Do educators plan and use intentional strategies to extend learning?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.2.2 Responsive teaching and scaffolding	Do we recognise and build on children's strengths and interests as they play?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.2.3 Child directed learning	Do children make choices and contribute to decisions about their learning?

Notes/Actions:

1.3 Assessment and Planning

Educators and coordinators use assessment and planning to inform learning experiences and evaluate outcomes.

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.3.1 Assessment and evaluation for learning	Do observations and documentation show clear links between learning, analysis, and planning?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.3.2 Critical reflection	Do educators regularly reflect on practice individually and as a team? Are reflections recorded and acted upon?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts / Evidence
1.3.3 Information sharing	Are learning summaries and progress updates shared meaningfully with families?

Notes/Actions:

Team Reflection Summary

Summarise key strengths, challenges, and goals identified from the checklist. Use this to inform your Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

Strengths:

Challenges:

Next Steps / Actions:
