

First Steps

Department of Education Aboriginal Children's Early Childhood Education Strategy 2021-2025

OUR VISION

All Aboriginal children in NSW can access quality early childhood education (ECE) and are supported to embrace their culture and identity for a strong start to lifelong learning.



OUR PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 1 95%**
of Aboriginal children
will be enrolled in the year
before school by 2025*
- 2 55%**
of Aboriginal children
will be assessed as
developmentally on track
in all five domains of the
Australian Early Development
Census by 2031*
- 3 50%**
of Aboriginal children
in ECE will have access to
an Aboriginal language
program by 2025*
- 4 3%**
of Early Childhood and
Education Directorate staff
will be Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander**
- 5 100%**
of staff employed in the
NSW Department of Education
Early Childhood and
Education Directorates
will have completed or
commenced cultural awareness/
safety training by 2025

* Closing the Gap target

** NSW Public Sector Aboriginal
Employment Strategy

OUR GOALS

1 CHILD

All Aboriginal children and their families are supported to enrol in quality culturally inclusive ECE.

2 FAMILY & KINSHIP

All Aboriginal families and children feel respected in ECE as their culture is celebrated and nourished.

3 LEARNING

Aboriginal children can have stronger outcomes in ECE and all children will feel pride in Aboriginal people, cultures and histories in NSW.

ACHIEVING OUR GOALS

- Work with local communities to enrol more Aboriginal children in ECE.
- Increase and support the number of Aboriginal ECE services and ECE services with strong connections with Aboriginal communities.
- Increase Aboriginal educators to create culturally safe learning places.
- Ensure there is funding for quality participation of Aboriginal children.
- All children in ECE can learn about Aboriginal languages and cultures in NSW.
- Support culturally appropriate transitions into ECE and primary school programs.
- Aboriginal children with disabilities will have culturally appropriate support and the same educational opportunities as all children.



- Provide guidance and resources to services to become culturally safe and welcoming spaces for Aboriginal families.
- Ensure our ECE sector has culturally safe services and a culturally aware workforce.
- Work with other service providers to give comprehensive support to Aboriginal children and families.
- Continue to strengthen the relationships between the NSW Department of Education, ECE services and Aboriginal families and communities.



- With the support of NSW Health and Aboriginal medical services, develop a culturally appropriate and locally relevant approach to assessing the development of Aboriginal children.
- Show leadership in professional learning and provide networking opportunities for ECE sector staff within local Aboriginal communities.
- Ensure that Aboriginal children are supported to attend at least 600 hours of ECE in the year before school for better outcomes.
- Ensure that NSW Department of Education staff work with services in a culturally safe manner.

