



Information Sheets for Parents

Responsive Teaching and Scaffolding

National Quality Standard – Quality Area 1

Element 1.2.2 – Responsive Teaching and Scaffolding: Educators respond to children’s ideas and play and extend children’s learning through open ended questions, interactions and feedback

Responsive teaching is achieved by valuing and building on children’s current and evolving strengths, skills and knowledge to ensure their wellbeing, motivation and engagement in learning.

Children learn best when the experiences they have are meaningful to them and are focused on the here and now. Because children constantly learn new skills and gain new insights into their world, educators continuously assess, evaluate, and implement responsive teaching strategies.

Educators observe children’s learning and use their knowledge of individual children, their strengths, and abilities to determine when to intervene and when to take a step back, allowing children to explore and apply their learning between different contexts.

Scaffolding is how adults and older peers support children's development and learning by offering just the right help at just the right time in just the right way. It is through actions as modelling, encouraging, questioning, adding challenges, and giving feedback to provide the support needed to extend children's existing capabilities, it is then progressively withdrawn as learners gain increasing mastery.

Responsive teaching and scaffolding involve:

- Responding to and extending on children’s ideas and implementing them into the educational program
- Discussions with children about their learning, exercising open ended questioning strategies to gain ideas for the educational program
- Identifying and utilising “teachable moments” to extend children’s learning
- Encouraging children to, and providing opportunities for them to explore and extend on their interests and stimulate their thinking
- Planning and implementing experiences that support peer scaffolding and extending their learning through engagement with other children
- Providing children with opportunities to extend their learning across different contexts.