

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: Building relationships

QKLG resources

Build relationships with local communities

The purpose of this resource is to raise awareness about the importance of building relationships with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community members.

This resource provides some suggestions about ways to begin to make connections and build relationships with local communities.

Why it is important

It is important to build and maintain genuine relationships with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities founded on respect, empathy, consideration and effective communication as this provides opportunities to:

- develop understandings about the cultural heritages, languages and practices of children and families
- source and choose culturally appropriate resources
- demonstrate that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued
- learn about and respect Australia's first peoples
- understand diverse ways of knowing and being
- develop specific knowledge about the local peoples, their relationships with Country/Place and local protocols.

Strong relationships with communities support Aboriginal children and Torres Strait Islander children to:

- feel welcome at your kindergarten
- develop a strong, confident self-identity
- enjoy their families being involved.

Where to start

Use the following sources to find traditional custodians of the local area, access protocols, guidelines and resources.

- Early Years support
 - Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), Department of Education, Queensland Government
<http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/>
 - Central Governing Bodies, Queensland Government
<https://www.qld.gov.au/families/babies/childcare/contacts/pages/governing>
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents using your service
 - local schools or neighbouring kindergartens who may have ideas to share
- State government
 - Indigenous Education, Department of Education, Queensland Government (includes information about indigenous education support, link to Dandiiri Schools and Community Library) <http://indigenous.education.qld.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Queensland Government (includes information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, cultural capability and protocols for consultation)
<https://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/people-communities>
 - Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA)
<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/kindergarten/professional-topics/inclusion-diversity>
 - Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools (EATSIPS)
<http://indigenous.education.qld.gov.au/eatsips/Pages/default.aspx>
- Local Government
 - local councillors or council librarians, who may provide some contacts
- Other resources
 - Indigenous language map is a guide to the names of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language groups across Australia
www.abc.net.au/indigenous/map/default.htm

Professional standards

This resource supports teachers to meet elements of:

- Standards 1, 3 and 6 of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (www.aitsl.edu.au/australian-professional-standards-for-teachers).
- National Quality Standards 1, 3 and 6 for early childhood education and care (<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard>).

More information

If you would like more information, please visit the QCAA website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au and search for 'Kindergarten inclusion and diversity'. Alternatively, email qklg@qcaa.qld.edu.au.