



KINDY IS A DEADLY CHOICE

HOW ARE KINDIES ASSESSED?

There are national standards for early childhood services that include a quality rating system. The rating can help you choose the best kindy for your child.

Quality areas

There are seven quality areas against which services are assessed and rated:

1. Educational program and practice - programs need to address children's individual learning and development needs.
2. Children's health and safety - your child's service should have policies, procedures and practices to support healthy eating, safety, dealing with injury or illness and preventing harm.
3. Physical environment - the environment must be safe, suitable and provide rich and diverse experiences to promote learning and development.
4. Staffing arrangements - the service needs to meet staffing levels, qualification requirements and professional standards.
5. Relationships with children - educators need to build responsive and respectful relationships with children.
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities—your service should actively communicate, consult and collaborate with families and communities.
7. Leadership and service management—the service must have documented policies, procedures and records, shared values, clear direction and reflective practices for staff.

Ratings

Services are given a rating for each of the above, and overall. The ratings are: excellent, exceeding national quality standard, meeting national quality standard, working towards national quality standard, significant improvement required.