

Critical Reflection Prompt #20

Running an early childhood service is a combination of running a business and running an educational organisation. Sometimes it can feel like one is taking up more of the time and energy than the other, and this can have flow on effects for the whole service.

Reflect on how you balance the 2 aspects of the organisation, whether there are ways that you could integrate them more effectively, and the consequences of one dominating over the other.



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Critical Reflection Prompt #23

Humans learn through engagement, 20% of what is said to us we retain, 30% of what we see we retain, 50% of what we see and hear we retain.* This is a very strong argument for children to have strong role models, not just teaching them, but demonstrating different ideas and concepts.

Reflect on how many of the learning outcomes you role model on an average day. Are you more likely to be engaging with an exploring the environment, or sitting on the edge of the sandpit supervising?



*<http://www.basicknowledge101.com/subjects/learningstyles.html>
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Critical Reflection Prompt #26

What role does art and craft play in your curriculum? Is it an opportunity for children to express their ideas and represent their world through a range of different media? Is it an expected part of an interest to create displays that can provide evidence for the families? Is it an opportunity to develop children's knowledge of different artistic methods to support their skills and abilities? Is it an integral part of the celebration of events to make gifts &/or decorations?



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Critical Reflection Prompt #19

It is important that your service reflect your unique context and the stakeholders within it. Sometimes different stakeholders hold more importance when it comes to decisions within the service. Sometimes we appease parents by doing what they want when it isn't best practice. Sometimes we follow the requirements of management when they do not reflect our situation (especially if multiple services). Sometimes we do what is easiest for the educators so they have a good day. Reflect on who has a voice in your service and what is the impact of this?



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Critical Reflection Prompt #22

Technology is everywhere and as adults we rely on it to get us up in the morning, get us to and from work on the quickest route, tell us the temperature, answer our questions and keep us entertained. Reflect on the increase of technology available and the pros and cons of it when used by and with young children. Is it age appropriate? Is it supporting holistic development? Is it inevitable so children need to learn? How do you balance between home and the service how much access children have? How does it align with compliance and your philosophy?



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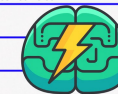
Critical Reflection Prompt #25

Sometimes we think about STEM as the structured way we were last taught about these subjects in school. Consider whether this is age appropriate and embeds the compliance requirements of the NQF?

How do young children conduct research and experiment in their environment? How do formal science experiments allow for agency and children's voices? What is the role of the educator in supporting children to build knowledge in this area?



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Critical Reflection Prompt #27

Consider the celebrations and events that occur in your service and reflect on the following:

- How do your events support the different cultures present in your service?
- How do your events align with your philosophy and the requirements of the NQF?
- How do events that are planned months in advance support children's current interests and needs?
- What learning opportunities are available in the events?



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Critical Reflection Prompt #21

We all have a Quality Improvement Plan but how they look and what we put in them can be vastly different between services. Reflect on the following:
How do you assess and add to your strengths in the QIP?
Who has a voice when it comes to creating the goals? Why?
Is everyone open to challenging and potentially confrontational goals or do easier goals get chosen to avoid too much change and self-reflection? What are the pros and cons on your goal setting approach?



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Critical Reflection Prompt #24

When considering children with challenging behaviours reflect on the following:

- How invested are you in considering your practices and what impact these have on children?
- Do you form trusting relationships with children so that they feel secure and supported?
- How do you validate children's feelings and developing awareness of how they relate with the world?



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