5 ways to identify appropriate resources

There are so many different resources that can be used in services to help children engage in learning and extend on their learning. Here are some tips to pick the right ones:

1 — Align with your core values

With so many options and seeing what others are using on social media we can often get resources for the wrong reasons. Make sure you choose resources that align with your values and beliefs, and your pedagogical approach instead of ones that 'look good' or are 'popular'.

2 — Look for open-ended options

The more open-ended your resources are the more you can get from them. They will likely be holistic, inclusive, multi-age, and can be adapted and modified to suit children and their ideas. This will also support Quality Area 3 to be occurring within your service.

3 — Ensure they are high quality

While it can cost a bit more to get high quality resources they are better in the long run as they will last longer, and be less likely to be broken or damaged. If resources are damaged it invites children to play with them without respect and damage them further.

4 — Consider sustainable options

Try to find sustainable options to support your service's environmentally responsible practices. This can include local suppliers to cut down on travel impacts, recycled or repurposed materials, sustainably sourced wood, biodegradable/recyclable materials,

5 — Get the children involved

Talk to children about what resources they would like, how they would use them, where they would store them, how they would keep them well looked after. You can also talk to the children about ordering the items after they have chosen them.