

# Reflecting on prioritising children



## How do educators prioritise children in decisions?

The role of educators and those working in early childhood roles is to prioritise the needs of the children you have duty of care over while they are in the service. Systems and expectations should support the needs of the children driving decisions as a top priority and then how this can be achieved.



## If educators can't do this do they stay away?

Where educators cannot, and will not, prioritise the needs of children they should not be working with children. This also means on days where educators are not feeling 100% and are more likely to focus on their own needs, they should be encouraged to take the day off, or do admin tasks instead.



## If educators aren't doing this how is it managed?

Management should have systems in place to ensure that all educators are prioritising the needs of the children and address any gaps in practice around this. These systems can include inductions, policies and procedure expectations, appraisals, performance management etc.



## Does management prioritise children?

If the number one focus of management is not the safety and wellbeing of the children in their organisation then they are not going to create a culture of this. Often management priorities such as budgets and enrolments and poor hiring practices mean that children get pushed down the list.



## How does this happen with families?

Sometimes the priorities of families can negatively impact the safety and wellbeing of the children as they do not align with research and best practice. Being willing to advocate for children with families, and share information in a professional and knowledgeable manner helps achieve this.