

Expression of interest

Early childhood services: Participate in a research study in 2023 about professional learning

- Seeking centre-based early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Western Sydney
- Develop early childhood teacher and educator skills and knowledge in evidence-based early language and literacy practices
- Contribute to meaningful research about how to effectively deliver professional learning within services

About the study

The study is a partnership between the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) and the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF). The study examines whether varying the number of early childhood teachers and educators that receive professional learning has an impact on early language and literacy practices and children's learning at a service. The study will also investigate the educational leader role and how they support collaboration and sharing of knowledge and skills within a service.

Participating services will be randomly allocated to 1 of 2 study groups:

- Group 1: the educational leader and 3 other teachers/educators within a service will receive ALNF's professional learning
- Group 2: the educational leader and 1 other teacher/educators within a service will receive ALNF's professional learning

Benefits of participation

- 2 or 4 teachers/educators per service (including the educational leader) that work with children in the year before school will complete ALNF's Early Language and Literacy (EL&L) program. The EL&L course provides teachers and educators with practical, multisensory strategies to support children's early language and literacy development. Participants have the option to elect to complete the nationally accredited 11027NAT Certificate IV in Early Language and Literacy at no cost.
- Participants also receive training and guidance in using the Early Language and Literacy Development Index (ELLDI) formative assessment tool. The tool gives real-time feedback on where children's early language and literacy development is at, and targeted recommendations on how to best support children.
- Participants receive mentoring to integrate their learning into practice and tailor strategies for their context.

Benefits of participation cont.

- Led by the educational leader, participants will be supported to share their new learnings and skills with their colleagues also working with children in the year before school through peer mentoring.
- Professional learning and centre resources will be provided at no cost to participating services. Services will also be reimbursed for the cost of backfill to relieve teachers/educators attending offsite training. This gives more services the opportunity to participate regardless of financial circumstances.
- Participation may support services to meet the goals or outcomes on their Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), particularly for key improvements in the National Quality Standard (NQS) Quality Area 1 (all standards and elements) and NQS Quality Area 7 (Standard 7.2, elements 7.2.2 and 7.2.3).

About your service

- located in Western Sydney
- it is a centre-based service providing education and care to children in the year before school (100 approved places or fewer)
- remains open during school holidays throughout the study period
- has an educational leader (minimum 3 days per week) and employs at least 5 additional teachers/educators (6 in total) that provide education and care to children in the year before school
- no teachers or educators can have previously undertaken any EL&L or ELLDI training

Commitment involved

- Either 2 or 4 teachers/educators supporting children in the year before school per service will engage in ALNF's professional learning. This includes 4.5 days of offsite training sessions per teacher/educator (split into 1 x ½ day and 2 x 2-day blocks over 7-8 weeks) at a local venue (backfill costs reimbursed) and ongoing support onsite at your service.
- ALNF-trained teachers/educators will be guided to provide peer mentoring to share their new skills and knowledge with other teachers/educators at your service.
- ALNF-trained teachers/educators will be asked to collect data and complete surveys, and may be asked to participate in interviews.
- Other participating teachers/educators at the service will be peer mentored by the ALNF-trained educators and be asked to complete surveys. Some will also be asked to participate in interviews.
- Services can participate from 20 February to 3 November or 27 March to 8 December.

For more information or to express interest

- Email AEROstudies@edresearch.edu.au
- Call Rebecca Pian on 0492 026 007
- Visit edresearch.edu.au/eoi-ecec

Ethics reference number: 520221209944488