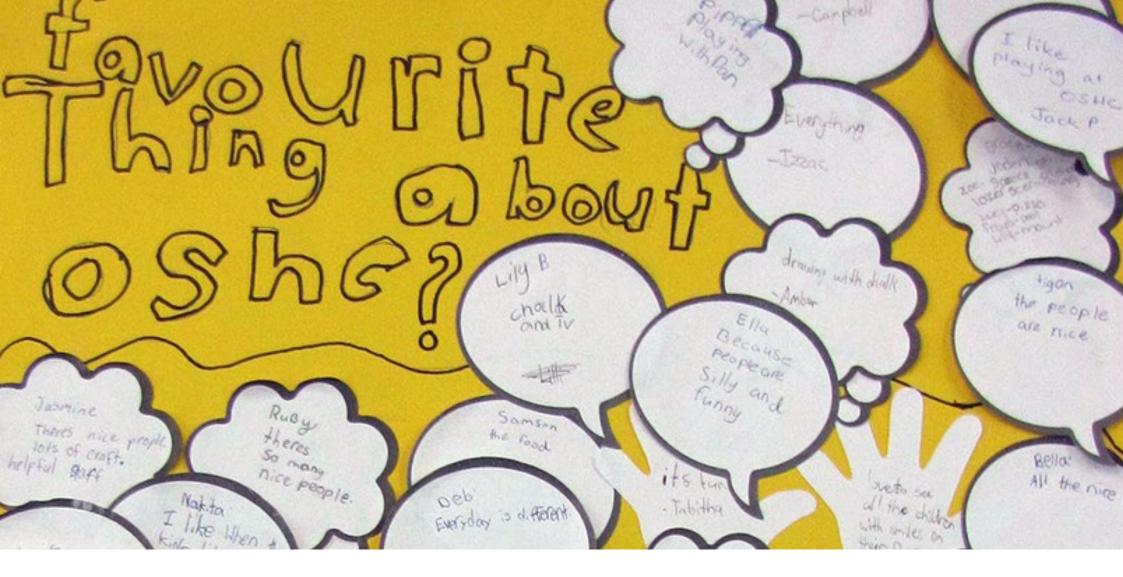
OSHC Programming Resource

This resource was develop by Gowrie SA under the Inclusion and Professional Support Program. The Inclusion and Professional Support Program was funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Please note the links for the updated National Quality Framework have not been updated.

We hope you will find this resource useful as you reflect on programming.





OSHC Program Examples

Ideas and Inspiration





Introduction

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When developing programs, educators generally consider what's working well and what might need improving to support the most effective and engaging programs for children. Having other programs to look at can offer inspiration and ideas for getting started or to use as a reflection tool for your own programs. As part of this process educators may have questions like "What should the program look like?" or "Am I doing it right?"

In this resource, you will find a selection of real examples of programs that offer ideas and inspiration for possible program formats to support working with the My Time, Our Place (MTOP), the Framework for School Age Care in Australia, and the National Quality Standards (NQS).

These programs have been developed over time in response to the introduction of the MTOP and the NQS and to fit a particular context. With this in mind, you will need to make sure that ideas you get from these fit your own context and that they are understood and engaged with by educators within your team and meet the needs of the children attending your service.

The guiding documents in the development and delivery of a program are:

- the My Time, Our Place
- the My Time Our Place Educators Guide
- the National Quality Standard
- the National Law and National Standards

These documents provide information about what is required and who is responsible.

"The Framework provides broad direction for school age care educators in settings to facilitate children's play, leisure and learning. It guides educators in their program decision-making and assists in planning, implementing and evaluating quality in school age care settings. It also underpins the implementation of more specific experiences relevant to each local community and school age care setting" (My Time, Our Place, Framework for School Age Care in Australia, p. 6).

The National Quality Standard, 2011 requires all services to work towards continuous improvement. That means that the program design as well as its implementation needs to be thought of as an evolving process over time.

Standard 1.2 "Educators and co-ordinators are focused, active and reflective in designing and delivering the program for each child" (ACECQA 2011, Guide to the National Quality Standard, p.38).

The educators whose programs are included in this document all talked about different versions of the formats, and that there was still work to be done.

Ideas and inspiration for program formats for My Time, Our Place, Framework for School Age

Care in Australia

When educators are on the lookout for ways to improve program processes and formats they are engaging in the cycle of continuous improvement and reflective practice. We hope that this resource is the beginning of a networking and sharing portfolio which is designed to be built upon and added to. You can do this in your service by using a folder to include copies of formats from this resource and any others that you develop or borrow from other services. You can share your program formats with us by emailing us at train@gowriesa.org.au.

In developing this resource, we had many conversations and debates about:

- What do we mean by program?
- What does a program look like?

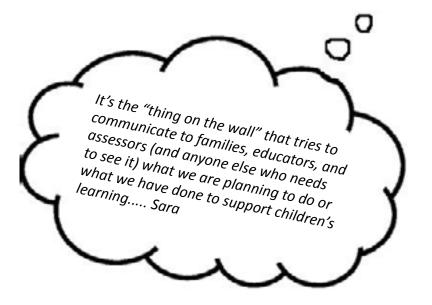
We suggest this is a really useful place to start. Before changing anything have a conversation at a staff meeting or team meeting about your program. Ask each other what do you mean when you say "the program"? You might also want to talk about what the program is for and what you want to include in your program. This is a great time to do some research with the guiding documents to find out what is required.

Having this conversation with all educators in your service will prepare you for the assessment visit and support understanding of your programming process.

NQS 7.2.3 "You may need to discuss with the Assessor how your service uses information about children's learning and development based on reflection and documentation to inform and evaluate programs to support children in achieving outcomes" (ACECQA 2011, Guide to the National Quality Standard, p.184).

In the development of this resource, we engaged in discussions with a number of educators about their perspectives on "What is a program?" and "What is it for?" We have documented the differing perspectives around these questions.

What is a Program?



What is it for?

Capturing moments in children's play and building on those moments for children. Its educators looking at play and asking "What if?" It's not just doing "it" because we have to! Most of the time it's magic with a bit of hard work and fairy dust thrown in."......Deb

A program is open ended, and spontaneous, supporting children to voice, needs and interests guided by staff and families.

.....Jani

A program is a planned approach to our place with

A program is a planned approach to our place with

implementing My Time, our the individual individual

A program is a document which helps educators map the journey of the children in their care - both where they've been and where they are going. It guides the educators, children and families and helps identify goals and opportunities......Freya

A program is the documentation which is used to make sense of and plan to extend the learning that has been happening with children. The documents are a record of the learning journey and a guide for educators to direct their thinking and enrich their time at OSHC..... Michelle

"Educators may make some documentation visible to showcase the learning which has occurred and to find ways to connect with others. When you document a child's story you give the child a voice, and have a valuable tool for opening a meaningful discussion with that child's family. It is also a means to engage with other educators, such as teachers in the child's school. Children also love to go back and reflect on documented moments"

(DEEWR 2012 <u>Educators' Guide to the</u> <u>Framework for School Age Care in</u> <u>Australia</u>, p.77).





How could we display it?







The Planning Cycle

The Guide to the National Quality Standard (2011) says:

"An ongoing cycle of planning, documenting and evaluating children's learning underpins the educational program and involves educators in critically thinking about what is offered and why.

Written plans, records of child assessment and evaluations underpin practice with children and families and enhance the accountability and professionalism of the service"

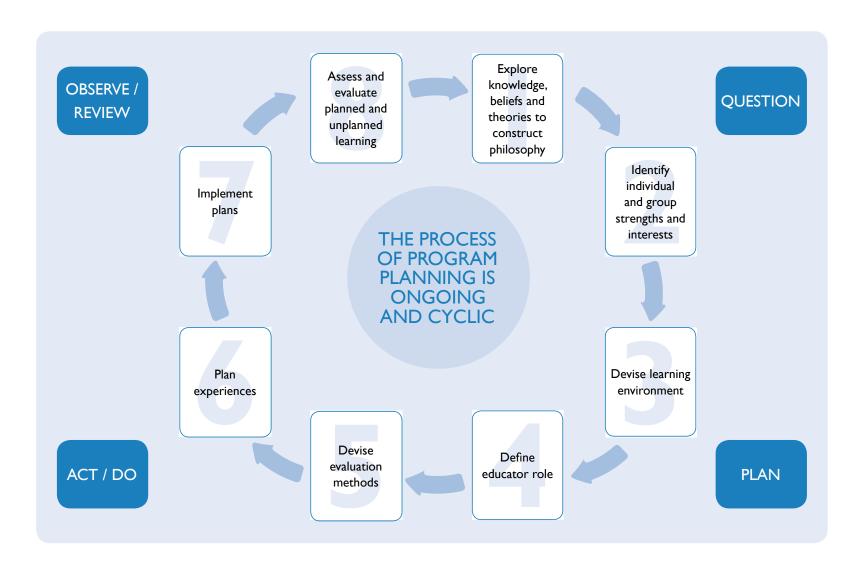
(ACECQA 2011, Guide to National Quality Standard, p.22).

This will look different in each service because the program reflects the context – the children, the families, the educators, the environment, the community, the philosophy. Taking time to explore and understand your context will really help in the development of any program. Having professional conversations with each other about your philosophy and how it relates to the program will give you a great base to work from.

On the following pages, we adapted the planning cycle diagram from the My Time, Our Place Educators Guide (DEEWR, 2012, p.16). At each step there are reflective questions to consider which will help you to reflect individually and/or with other educators and to think about how you make decisions about planning and documentation.

As My Time, Our Place suggests, the program encompasses far more than just a list of planned experiences. So when program planning, educators need to consider such things as the environment, the routines, the everyday resources, the interests and needs of the children, and the skills and knowledge of the educators who work with the children.

SCHOOL AGE CARE PLANNING CYCLE

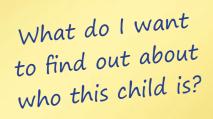


Adapted from 'School Age Care Planning Cycle' (DEEWR 2012, <u>Educators' Guide to the Framework for School Age Care in Australia</u>, p.12).

Question

How have our conversations with families helped us learn more about each child?

What's my understanding of how the child learns in this environment?



"Effective forward planning will enable the success of any service. It operates as a continuous 'cycle of inquiry' which includes stopping to think about how and why we're doing things the way we are, examining our answers to these questions from different perspectives, and using the deeper understandings we develop as a reference point for deciding what actions or changes we want to make."

(DEEWR 2012 <u>Educators' Guide to the</u> Framework for School Age Care in Australia, p.12)



How will I extend on what I've discovered and know about this child?

How will we build on the children's resourcefulness within our environment?

Plan, Act/Do

"Educators should spend time planning their indoor and outdoor environments to achieve the outcomes of their vision, which is aligned with their philosophy and beliefs. School age care settings should provide choice and flexibility and a range of engaging experiences which will meet the needs of a range of different children in different age ranges. There should be opportunities for creativity, experimentation and play. The environment should allow children to feel a sense of belonging, coupled with a sense of autonomy."

How have I used the MTOP framework to guide my planning and practice? How have my 'everyday'
conversations with
families given me
inspiration to plan
and respond
to children?

DEEWR 2012, <u>Educators' Guide to the Framework</u> <u>for School Age Care in Australia</u>, p.13)

Observe/ Review

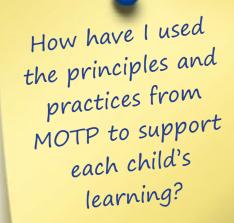


"Evaluation should not simply consist of individual written work. Group reflection and discussion is a critical component of evaluation which then leads onto the next step in the cyclic process. Children should also play a critical role in evaluating aspects of the program including routines, experiences and resources."

DEEWR 2012, <u>Educators' Guide to the Framework for School</u>

<u>Age Care in Australia</u>, p.18)

How do the reflections on our environment support continued engagement from children?



How have my plans and responses to conversations with families supported each child and their family's sense of belonging? "Documentation serves different purposes at different times. The criteria for what counts as quality documentation depends on the context in which you are using it. What seems to remain constant is that quality documentation focuses on some aspect of learning—not just 'what we did.' It prompts questions and promotes conversations among children and adults that deepen and extend learning."

(DEEWR 2012, Educators' Guide to the Framework for School Age Care in Australia, p.75)

The following pages provide a range of different examples which we hope will provide you with ideas and inspiration to get started or make changes to your program. We do not guarantee that the examples are best practice, simply examples for you to reflect on.

To support you in reflecting on and developing programs in your service you may be interested in accessing the wide range of professional learning we have available at Gowrie SA or we can come to your service and customise professional learning to meet your specific needs. We also have on-site mentoring and consultancy available where we can work with educators to reflect on programs, environments, engaging learning experiences, documentation and My Time Our Place.

For more information, contact Gowrie SA on 1800 129 606 or email train@gowriesa.org.au.

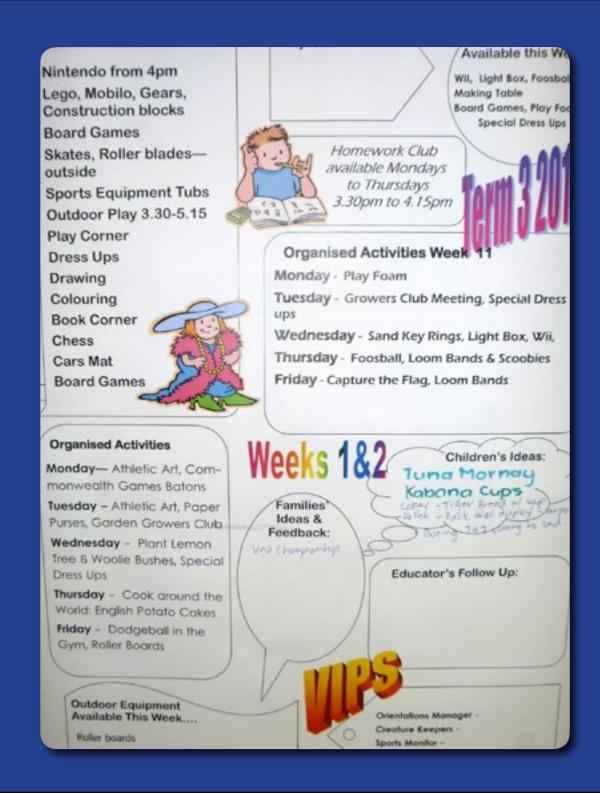
You can also find upcoming training, resources and useful links on our website <u>www.gowriesa.org.au</u>

Examples..

Service One

This service uses a range of documentation to inform the program.

This is the main displayed program which appears on the wall to communicate to children and their families the key happenings over a two week period. It identifies experiences available every day, specific organised activities, group and long term projects, children's ideas, family feedback and educator follow up. It is only one part of the programming process. Individual learning plans, modified learning stories and other various methods are in place to inform the program.

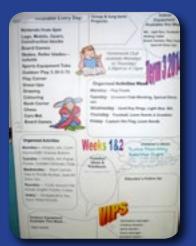


Each term all info from the various sources is collated and coded on a data entry sheet and used to feed back into the program.

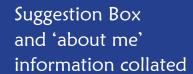


A term planner is used to record programmed activities.



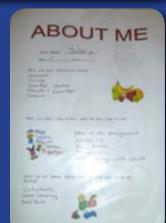


A fortnightly template is used to display the current program as well as collect information from children, educators and families to use for future programming.

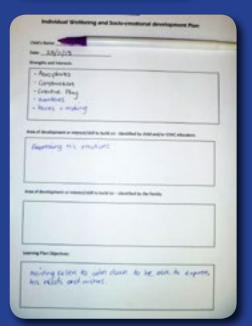












Individual
Learning Plans are
written for each
child every year or
two years. These
are discussed and
written at planned
staff meetings.

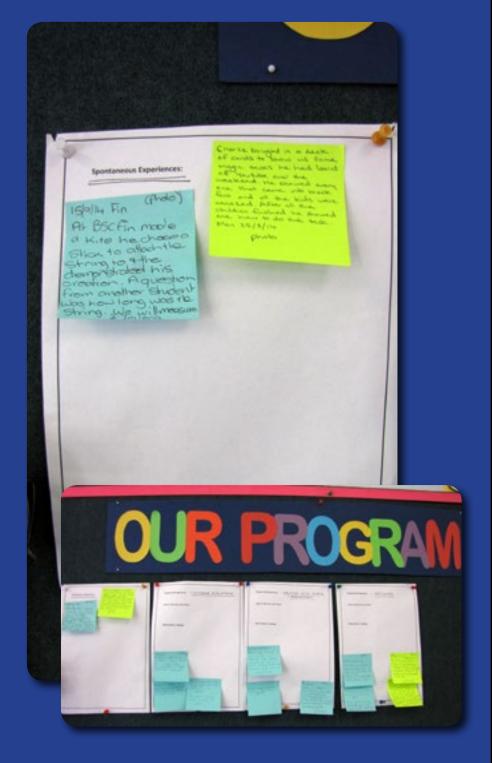


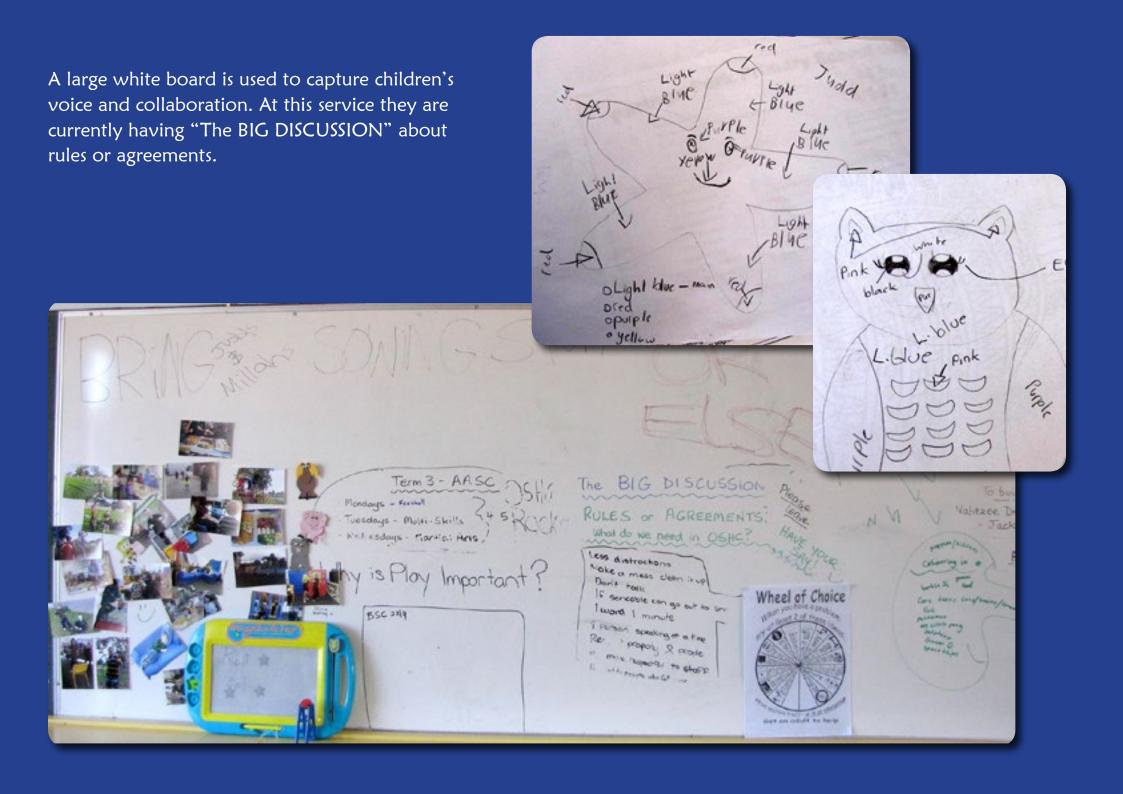
Modified learning stories written on each child – one or two per year placed in portfolios.

Service Two

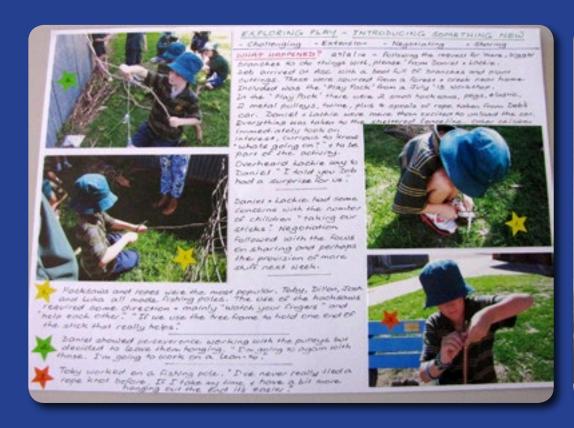
The next 3 pages demonstrate another service's approach to programming. This service uses various approaches to documenting their program including modified floor books, discussions recorded on white boards, question boards with children's responses and jottings of observations of children's learning and wellbeing.

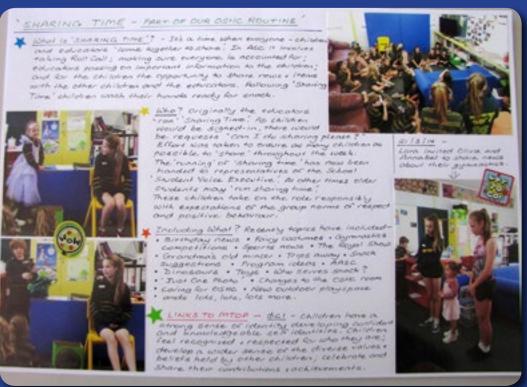
- Featured on the right is the main wall display.
- 3-4 key areas of learning, interest or enquiry are identified from observing. Each key area is placed on a sheet of paper, plus 1 additional sheet for spontaneous happenings. These key areas can reflect activities, experiences, routines, projects, questions/ reflections or wonderings, interactions, play spaces/ environment e.g. outdoor play space, helping with snacks, artwork, etc.
- Educators add jottings on sticky notes of key learning, observations, questions and discoveries under each heading. Children and families are also encouraged to add notes.
- There is no timeframe for key areas to stay up. It could be a few days, weeks or a term depending on children's interests, learning and discoveries. If new interests emerge they are placed on a piece of paper.
- The information gathered informs future programming, information on each child's learning and wellbeing and a modified floor book. Formal reflection takes place once a week.





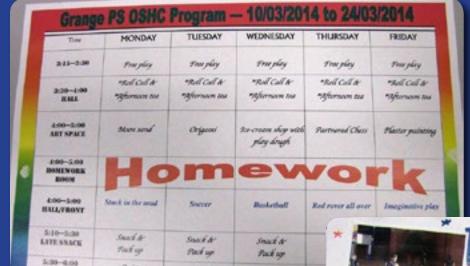
This program book was initially started by an educator who wanted to further understand My Time Our Place and the NQS. It has evolved and become an essential component to documenting the program including children's learning and wellbeing, routines, experiences, reflections, projects and focus areas. Sometimes it captures one child, other times groups of children, sometimes it captures a focus area of learning and exploration over time, at other times a snap shot of experiences from an afternoon. Learning is sometimes prompted by educators attending professional learning, critical reflection, professional conversations and children's explorations.



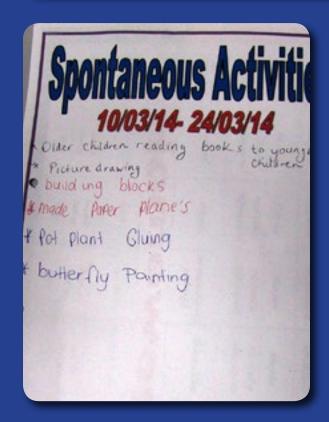


Service Three

This OSHC service has created focus groups to support the collection of information about each child's learning. Observation forms, surveys, discussions and a project book reflect and inform the program along with a weekly timetable and a sheet to document spontaneous activities. Staff share responsibility for documenting children's learning and wellbeing.



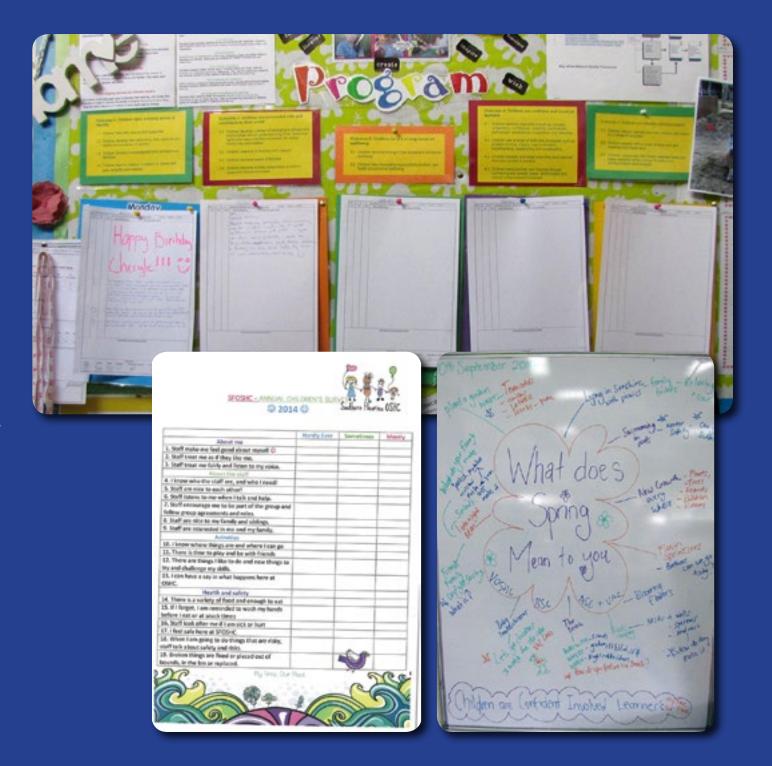
Quiet





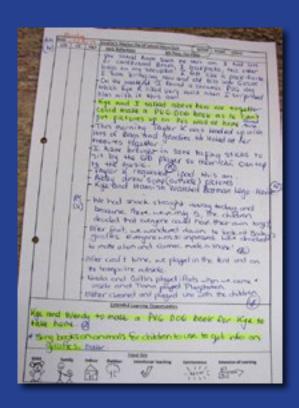
Service Four:

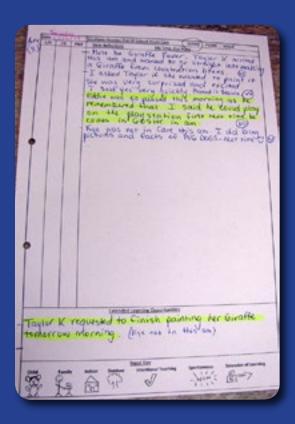
This is an example of an open ended, spontaneous program supporting children voice, needs and interests guided by staff and families. Each day of the week has a form with a key at the bottom. This indicates where the input came from and links to Learning Outcomes. The educators follow children's lead and write daily reflections as they emerge. This along with mind maps and other sources of information such as about you forms, surveys, journals, quote books are used to inform extended learning opportunities.

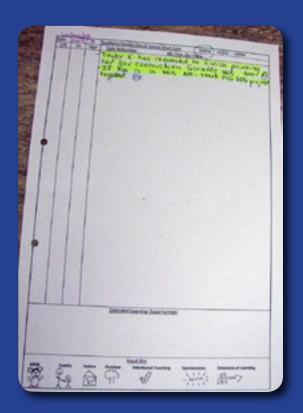


Service Five

This single staff service uses a daily reflection plan completed during the service operating hours, and a communication book in conjunction with a modified project/floor book to capture children's learning. The educators use a highlighter to show links, follow on and a continuous cycle of planning.







In addition, this book is used in a flexible way to capture the program. It used for capturing children's interests, learning, projects, inquiries, happenings, experiences, reflections, staff meetings and more.

Children and educators are encouraged to document in the book which is available to families at all times.





Making Apple Crumble with Seth 12/09/2013 with Wendy

Apple crumble is so easy to make, it can hardly be called cooking. This apple crumble seeipe makes a great winter desect, served with ice cream or cream, and contains cloves, allipice and brown sugar. The cramble forms when baked in a hot even.

Ingredients:

- . 6-8 large cooking apples (or 2 cups posched or pureod fruit)
- . I this water
- . I cloves or I top ground allspice

Crumble topping

- . 150g plain flour
- 60g invalted softened butter
- 100g brown sugar (try 50g of Sugar)

Method:

Probest oven to 200°C.

Poel, core and cut apples into smallish pieces.

Place cut apple, cloves and water into a small casserole dish.

Cover and place in microwave on high for about 5 minutes.

It a small how!, rub the butter and flour together to form pea size pieces.

Mix in sugar.

Put the crumble mixture on top of the apple and put into even for around 15 - 20 minutes or antil crippy and brown on top.





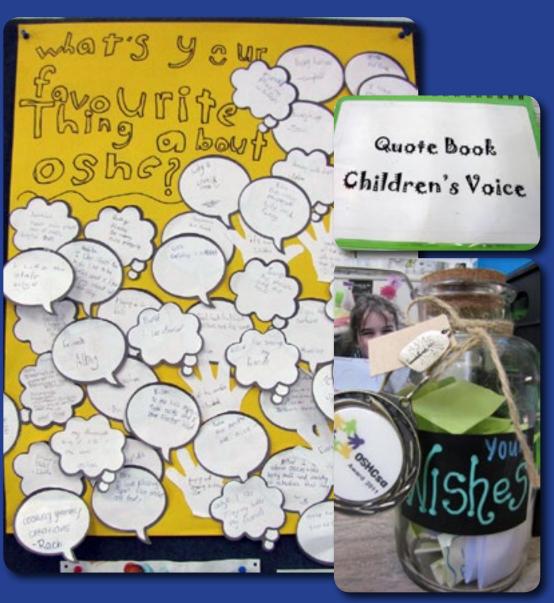




Capturing children's voice

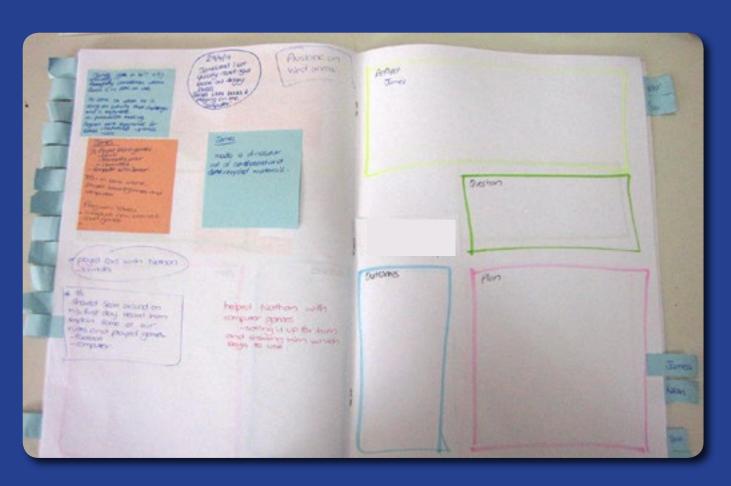
Some methods used for capturing children's voice to inform the program include a quote book, a wishes jar, modified learning stories, surveys and exploring questions and topics such as "What is your favourite thing about OSHC?" and "What does play mean to us? "





Service six

This is an example from a single staff service. The time to plan the program has to be done during the time the children are in care. The educator has one book with a page for each child where jottings, photos and comments from children can be placed. Key headings include reflect, question, outcomes and plans. This information also informs a flexible term plan that captures the spontaneous and emerging interest of the children. The educator encourages the children to contribute to the documents.



Service seven

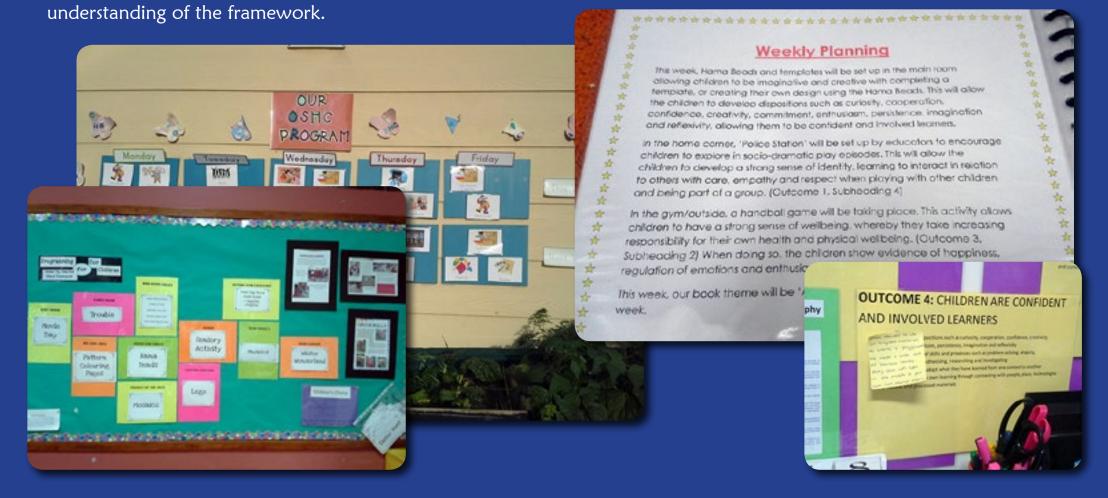
Each day of the week key experiences are documented on the program. At the end of each session educators write a reflection of the afternoon which is used to inform future programs. Photo posters are also used to demonstrate the program. Observations, comments and reflections are written on the posters along with photos and links to my Time Our Place. These are then collated in a folder and also used to inform future planning.



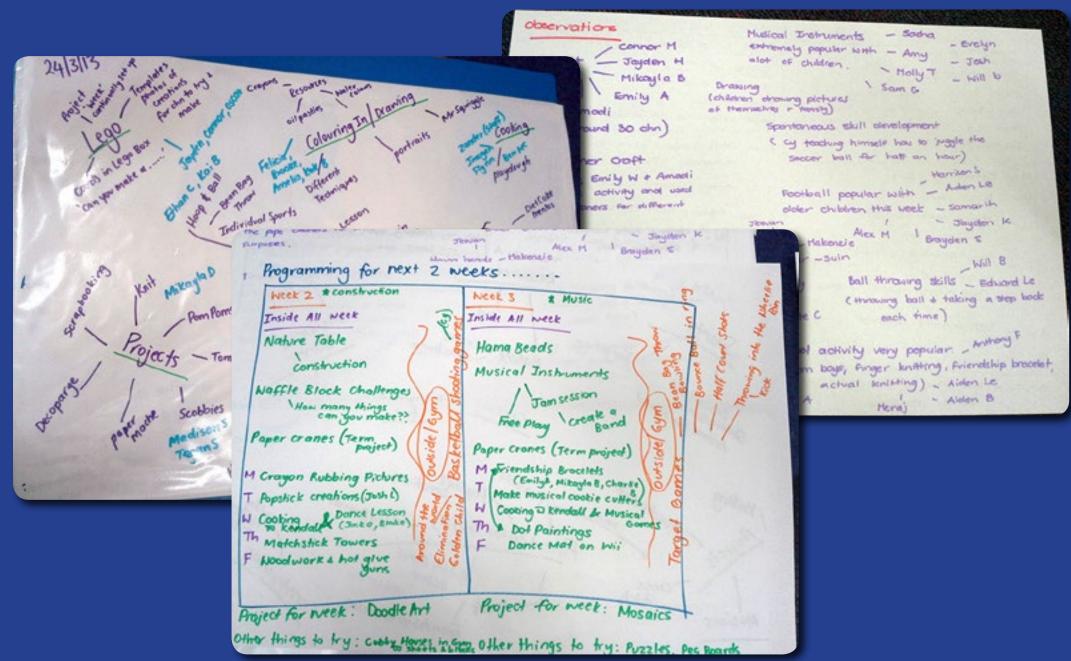


Service eight

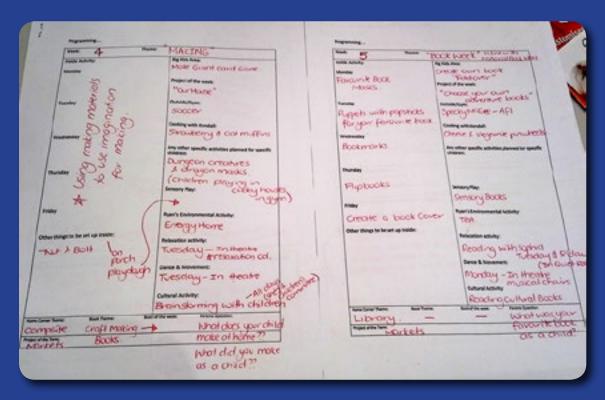
The following pages are from a large OSHC service that has been utilising a range of methods to program. They have found that they needed multiple methods to capture their program and have been experimenting with a range of styles to gather information and plan. Outside the OSHC room a daily pictorial display board shows the main featured experiences planned. This ensures the program is communicated both to the children and their families that attend OSHC and also others in the school community. Inside there are also 2 displays board with further information. One had main experiences feature, plus some reflections on past experiences. The other board has each outcome placed on a sheet of paper. Educators then place sticky notes of observations on the outcome they feel it is most linked to. The Educator types up a weekly plan and makes links with My Time Our Place which has assisted with their

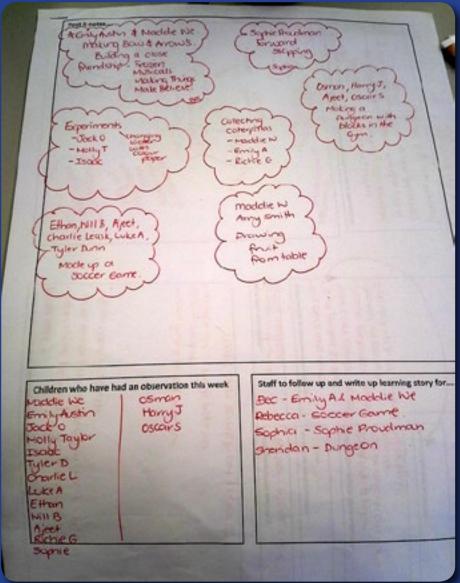


Further documentation to support planning includes modified Learning Stories, and mind maps to inform programs which are discussed at a fortnightly staff meeting.

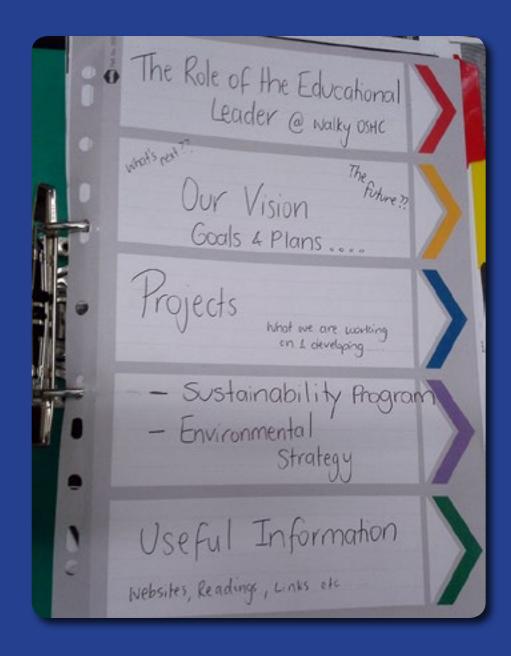


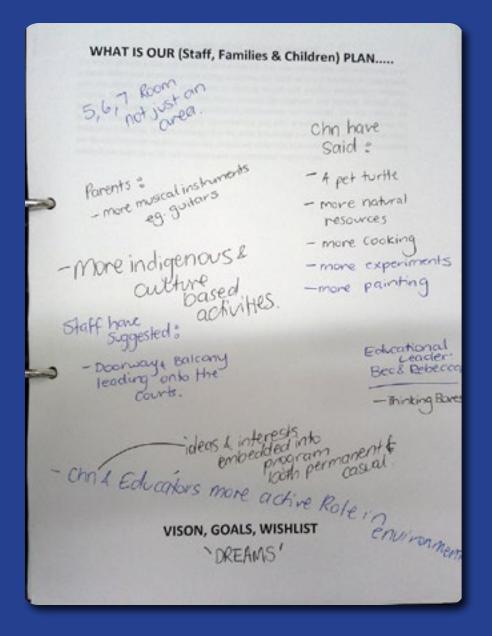
Over time service eight have refined the various methods they used to document the planning cycle into a formatted document seen below.





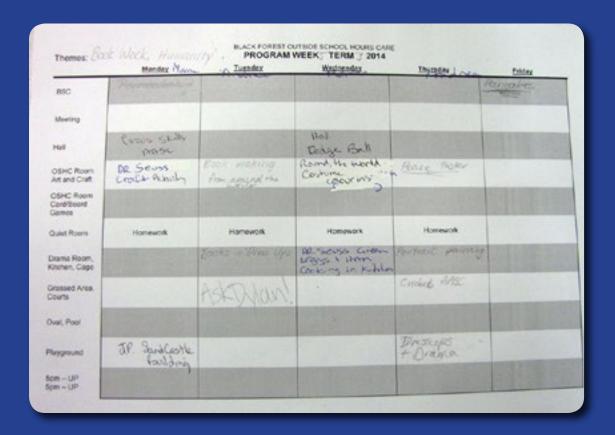
This is an example of an Educational Leadership folder. It has information on the services vision, goals, plans, projects and useful information. This folder is used to prompt critical reflection and also helps to inform the program.





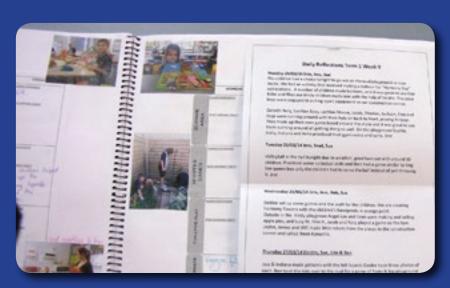
Service nine

This service has a weekly timetable highlighting the various areas in OSHC and planned experiences from children's input and community happenings. Educators write a reflection sheet at the end of each session. In addition educators each have reflection journals to jot down observations, questions, and ideas. Sometimes this is guided, for example when reviewing the philosophy staff are asked to write down their thoughts on philosophy in OSHC.



I personally believe that children Should be 1895 about the "educators" Setting Specific activitys for the a children and More about the children directing their own activitys, Leaving them room to use their imaginations I was to come I the one they want to do, then I swould only get a handful of a children who comply, but if i owas to take the kids outside and let them have occess and choose what facilitys they want use, and we can just be there as "supervisers" for their activitys. I believe this method would leave the children with room to Imaginations/ creativity. - Adam

This service currently uses a project book to capture many aspects of the planning cycle. Children and families complete various questionnaires and along with discussions, mind maps and ideas from the children are placed in to book which informs the program. Each week the program is posted into the project book. Educators, children and their families are encouraged to write further comments, reflections, happenings, stories and paste photos and drawings. At the end of each session educators type a reflection which is also kept in the project book and informs future planning. The Educators see this way of programming as evolving and ever changing. After some recent critical reflection Educators are now focusing more on learning and well being of children in their daily reflections.





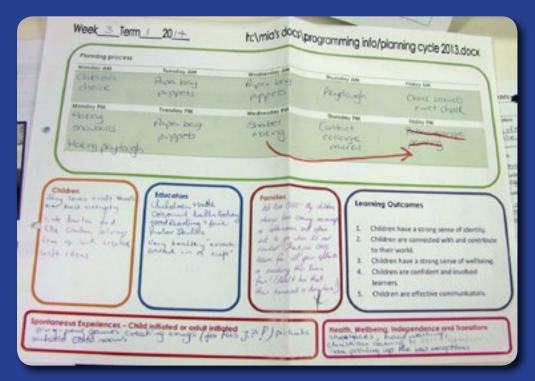


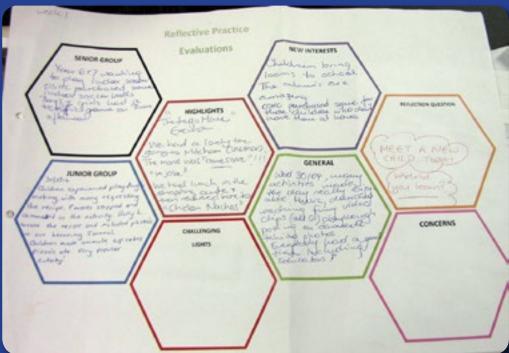
This service has a term focus chosen in collaboration with children, their families and educators which forms the basis of much of their planning. For example sports, trees and friendships have been some of the focus topics. They have student leaders who help gather information and informs the program. They use a pin up board and a modified floorbook to capture planned experiences and many spontaneous experiences based on children's learning and children emerging interests, questions and discoveries. The focus can evolve depending on where children's interest emerge. In addition there are always a range of other experiences and opportunties for children to choose from. The service uses modified learning stories for regular children and some children have a portfolio to place their works, photos, experiences and stories. They also have student leaders who help gather information. Staff have access to a folder of individual learning plans in alphabetical order and a staff communication book which also captures and communicates children' wellbeing, learning and planned focuses. They have a list of all the children which they refer to regularly to ensure all children are planned for.





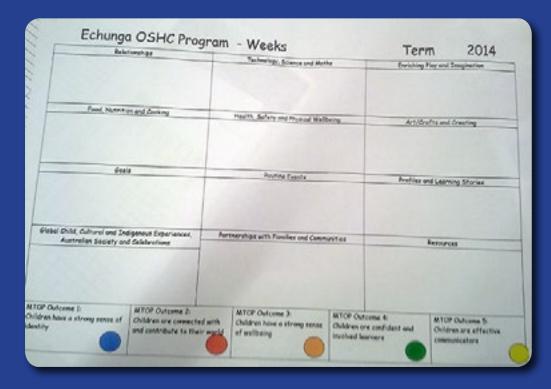
This OSHC Service has a weekly A3 form that highlights particular daily experiences planned based on reflections and evaluations of previous weeks. It also has areas for jottings as happenings emerge entitled; children, educators, families, spontaneous experiences and health, well-being, independence, transitions. Once a week a reflection and evaluation occurs. Again key headings are used to prompt reflection in a range of areas: senior group, junior group, highlights, challenging lights, general, new interests, reflection question and concerns. In addition the service has a large scrap book where photos, jotting from educators, children and families are placed about children's learning, wellbeing and play. These methods all inform and demonstrate the overall program and cycle of planning. They also use a form to develop an individual plan for children where the need arises.

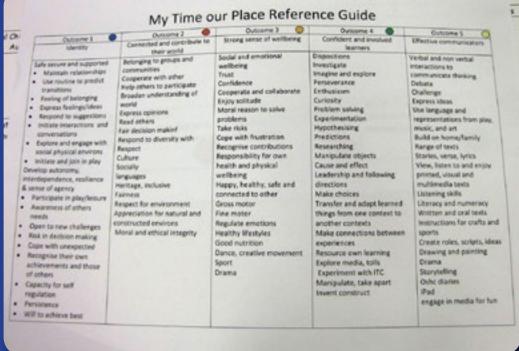




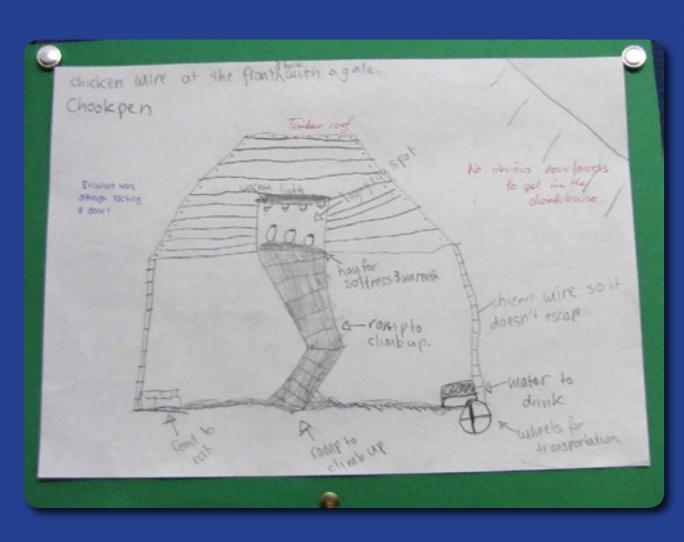
This service has developed a format for the program plan. It is a fluid program that runs over several weeks. A range of headings are used including: relationships, technology/science/maths, enriching play and imagination, food nutrition and cooking, health, safety and wellbeing, art, craft and creating, Goals, Routine events, Life skills, Global child, Cultural and Indigenous experiences, Australian society and celebrations, partnerships with families and communities, Resources. Experiences are planned based on reflection and evaluation of past weeks. Experiences are linked to My Time Our Place using a colour code. The service has developed a My Time Our Place reference guide to support links and understanding of the framework. In addition child profiles and information from families is gathered.







Here is an example of how one service documented children's learning, play and discoveries. During vacation care the service had hatching chickens which the children were extremely interested in asking questions, learning from each other. Their interest continued and children wanted to design their own chicken pen.





Professional conversations



Professional conversations take us outside of ourselves and our context; they provide an opportunity for reflection and consideration of multiple perspectives.

"A professional conversation draws together a group of [early childhood] professionals to engage in constructive dialogue on a topic of shared interest and importance.... In terms of practice, conversations are designed to be responsive to the strengths, interests and needs of participants, and seek to build on prior learning, connecting current and new ways of thinking and working"

(Irvine, S., & Collie, M. (2011). The professional conversation: A new approach to professional learning in early childhood education and care. In the Loop, Autumn, 3-8).

Engaging in professional conversations with other educators about your practice, programming and documentation will support a deeper reflection and understanding to underpin and enhance your practice.

On the following pages you will find example templates that can support you in having professional conversations and documenting them. You can use these, or create your own. Critically reflecting on your current formats and planning process helps everyone involved to understand and be able to articulate why you use a particular format rather than another one.



Educator Discussion Template

In a group discussion, you could document in each of these circles your different responses to these questions. You could also then decide what this collectively means at your service.

What do we mean by program?

What is the purpose of our program?

What do we want to achieve with our program?

Adapt or adopt?

How will you decide what to use from this resource? How will it fit with your existing formats?

Documentation that makes learning visible is a vital part of our work in OSHC. Understanding and being able to talk about the processes you use to document children's learning, and the reasons for why this format and not another is a necessary part of this. That's why just taking someone else's format whether it is commercially produced or borrowed from another service and putting it on your wall is not always the best option because it's not yours and doesn't reflect who you are.

Both formal conversations, and informal conversations will provide the opportunity to wonder about how your program might look and understand the meaning behind it.

Thinking and talking about the formats you have seen in this resource will help you explore your current practice and what things you might like to change and improve on. In this resource you will find a format for documenting these professional conversations which can be used as evidence for NQS and as a tool for reflection.

Keep in mind that these examples only represent what 'goes on the wall'. There are a range of other formats that you may want to explore for other aspects of the planning cycle.

We would like to thank all the educators, children and families who have generously contributed their programming formats to this resource (Blackforest, Grange, Southern Fleurieu, Paringa Park, Walkerville, St. Pius X, St. Augustines, Nairne, Kesbrook, Our Lady of Visitation, West lakes Shores, St. David's).

We are hoping to continue collecting and showcasing different examples on our website. If you would like to contribute, contact us:

Email train@gowriesa.org.au Phone 1800 129 606 How could you use this resource in your service?