

2026 Health and Development Participation Grant

Recommended Professional Learning

About this resource

Under Category 2 of the 2026 Health and Development Participation (HDP) Grant program guidelines, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services may use funding to engage with professional development courses and build capacity within the service to support children's health and development.

The list below provides recommendations of courses ECEC services may wish to engage with using the HDP Grant funding. ECEC services may choose to use Category 2 funding to cover any relief time or overtime costs for ECEC educators and teachers to engage with these materials.

This list is not exhaustive and ECEC services may use funding for other professional learning and development courses, conferences or workshops, provided they are relevant to supporting children's health and development and the Health and Development Checks in ECEC program.

Reminder: If you are a community preschool, you are eligible for the SCB Program. If you are a long day care eligible for Child Care Subsidy (CCS) then you may be eligible for support through the Australian Government's Inclusion Support Program. We recommend you speak to your SCB or ISP provider prior to spending Category 2 funding. This will ensure you are able to identify training and supports that are already available under SCB or ISP and that align to your Service Inclusion Plan.

Recommended Learning – Brighter Beginnings Support Suite

Services are encouraged to use the funding to attend health and development workshops and engage with the Department's professional learning materials and tools, including resources and courses, provided by the Department. This includes:

Course Link	Course Content	Developmental Domain
Culturally Safe Approach for Health and Development Checks in ECEC	<p>The Culturally Safe Approach (CSA) for Health and Development Checks (HDC) is a self-paced guide for early childhood education and care (ECEC) services receiving an HDC visit.</p> <p>These resources and reflections will support services in fostering a culturally safe and inclusive environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, ensuring every child in NSW can get the best start to life and learning.</p>	Cultural Responsiveness
Brighter Beginnings Connect and	The Brighter Beginnings: Connect & Communicate Toolkit has been created by the NSW Department of Education and NSW Health to support development of communication skills for 4-	Communication

<u>Communicate Toolkit</u>	<p>year-old children within early childhood education and care services.</p> <p>The toolkit equips early childhood educators with information and resources on 4-year-old communication development to use in everyday practice. The toolkit also includes a reflective workbook that can be used alongside the toolkit. Completing the activities in the reflective workbook will give you opportunities to critically reflect on your practice and current understanding, and inform future planning and documentation.</p>	
--	---	--

Recommended Learning – Free Resources

Course Link	Course Content	Developmental Domain
<u>Understanding and Supporting Children's Behaviour</u>	<p>This webinar series and accompanying workbook from Phoenix Support teaches educators about understanding and supporting children's behaviour in early childhood education and care services.</p> <p>Webinar topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's emotional development • children's brain development • connections with children • supporting children's behaviour • working together with families and communities. <p>This course is available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.</p>	Socioemotional
<u>Beyond Blue Learning Resilience</u>	<p>An in-depth understanding of social and emotional learning (SEL), and why its important for mental health and wellbeing. Further, provides educators with an understanding of how to intentionally teach SEL skills, and foster resilience in education settings.</p> <p>This course is available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.</p>	Socioemotional
<u>Children's mental health learning pathway</u>	<p>The Emerging Minds <i>Children's mental health</i> learning pathway is designed for all practitioners who want to better understand the factors that influence child mental health. The included courses explore the key factors that influence and support infant and child mental health, and the important role mental health plays in children's physical health, relationships, resilience, development and learning.</p>	Socioemotional

Course Link	Course Content	Developmental Domain
	This course is available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.	
<u>Small Bites for Big Steps</u>	<p>The Small Bites for Big Steps on-demand video series and 3 NESA accredited Professional Development courses developed by Northern Sydney Local Health District cover a range of topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breastfeeding • healthy eating • physical activity • sleeping • oral health • school readiness • leadership. <p>These Professional Development courses and on-demand videos are freely available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care. The Small Bites for Big Steps on demand videos are also available for families and carers to support the healthy development of their children in their First 2000 days.</p>	Physical Health
<u>Early Childhood Inclusive Education Webinar Series</u>	<p>This series of 7 interactive webinars from Special Teaching and Research (STaR) outlines the delivery of quality educational programs for children with disability and developmental delays. Webinar topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inclusion in early childhood services • observations and planning for inclusion • strategies to support inclusion • developing and implementing individual learning plans • transition to school for children with disabilities and additional needs. <p>These resources are relevant to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.</p>	Inclusion Support
<u>Inclusion in early childhood collection</u>	A series of resources to support inclusive practices in early childhood education and care settings. The collection aims to support increased knowledge, skills and confidence in the inclusion of children within the ECEC learning environment.	Inclusion Support

Course Link	Course Content	Developmental Domain
	These resources are available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.	
<u>Early Years Connect</u>	<p>This online program, delivered by the Queensland Government, is designed to help educators in supporting children with complex additional needs to participate in ECEC.</p> <p>This course is available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.</p>	Inclusion Support
<u>AERO Early Childhood Learning Trajectories</u>	<p>The Australian Education Resource Organisation (AERO) resources outline learning domains and trajectories in each, alignment with EYLF, and provide strategies for educators to observe, plan and reflect. The reflection activity provides educators with an opportunity to deepen knowledge and understanding of the learning trajectories.</p> <p>These resources are available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.</p>	Multiple

Recommended Learning – Resources at cost

Course Link	Course Content	Developmental Domain
<u>Language and Literacy Professional Learning Bundle</u>	<p>A set of online learning modules, webcasts and publications to support educators to build knowledge and contemporary practices around language and literacy in the early years.</p> <p>This course is available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.</p>	Communication
<u>The Hanen Centre - Learning Language and Loving It</u>	<p>A virtual workshop delivered by the Hanen Centre to support educators to build language, literacy and social skills in early childhood settings. Addresses prevention of language delays, early language intervention and language enrichment in early childhood settings.</p> <p>This course is available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.</p>	Communication
<u>Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a)</u>	A short course delivered by the University of Melbourne which delivers practical, evidence-based teaching and learning strategies that enhance the quality of interactions with young children and support child development and learning.	Communication

Course Link	Course Content	Developmental Domain
	This course is available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.	
<u>Supporting Behaviour and Self-regulation Professional Learning Bundle</u>	<p>A collection of materials including online learning modules, webcasts and ECA publications, curated by ECA to support educators to build knowledge and contemporary practices around behaviour and self-regulation in the early years.</p> <p>This course is available to all early childhood educators working in preschools, family day care and long day care services.</p>	Socioemotional