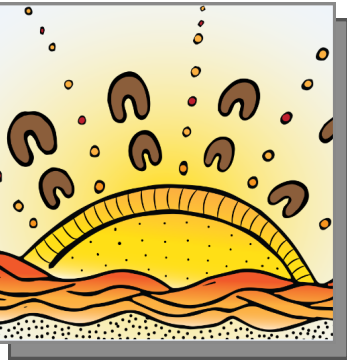


What makes DECD Anangu Children & Family Centres unique?

The Children & Family Centres situated on the Anangu Lands reflect the unique cultural context within which they are located. The PYEC Early Childhood Philosophy Statement describes and underpins the direction of the work of early childhood educators on the Anangu Lands. The centres are further shaped by 4 key conceptual understandings of teaching and learning in the early years: Families Are First Teachers, Pinta Pinta, the Third Space, and the 100 Languages of Children.



Families Are First Teachers

This picture shows the sun coming up early in the morning and the flowers always looking to and following the sun all day until the evening. This story is about children looking up to their mothers, grandmother and families all the time watching them & learning from them. They feel their warm loving spirit close to them all the time . They learn that they are there to help them in every way. With their family children want to practice, touch, feel, laugh, hug, kiss, sing, and talk, which will help them to be strong and confident. Katrina Tjitayi (Wellbeing Coordinator)

Children and Family Centre staff recognize that families are children’s first and most influential teachers and that young children (just like the flowers) are watching and learning from their family members (represented by the sun) all day and everyday from birth.

Pinta Pinta

Continuing on from the influence each adult’s relationship and interactions can have on a child’s learning every day, the Pinta Pinta represents the significant qualities of these interactions that will have the greatest impact in a child’s healthy development, learning and wellbeing. Every interaction between an adult and a child can have a positive effect on development, particularly when the adult joins their attention to that of the child and the interaction goes back and forth between the adult and the child like a conversation. The more times a child experiences this type of interaction the greater the impact and benefit. Whether it is with a parent, older sibling, family member, educator or with another community member at the store or art centre, these types of interactions will support children to become confident and engaged members of the community.



Children & Family Centres as a Third Space

Playgroups and preschools are places where Piranpa and Anangu ways of knowing, being and learning combine to create a 3rd space. In this way the Children & Family Centre provides a bridge between what a child already knows, understands and can do, with new learning. This image by Katrina Tjitayi represents the AEW footsteps and Piranpa teacher’s shoes coming together to create the shared 3rd space of the Children & Family Centre.

Tjukurpa Tjuta—The 100 Languages

Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Emilia project, used the term 100 languages of children to describe the many ways in which children express and explore what they know, understand, can do and imagine, as well as the potential of each and every child.

Before the baby is born, she hears the mother’s voice and this relationship is the number 1 language. The language and stories are carried inside... they’re already there. If I see a person I can see language in their kurunpa (spirit). When children are moving around and playing they have language. Language in talking, singing, story-wire, painting, hunting, inma, dancing, storytelling ...it is all connected - tjungu. I have a relationship with trees, country, land and when I see something like a tree, my kurunpa (spirit) hears it’s language...the relationship is already there. Many languages make us rich and proud. Katrina Tjitayi



DECD Anangu Lands Partnership 2018

Anangu Children & Family Centres

This document provides guidance on the provision of early childhood education in Anangu Schools through integrated Playgroups, Families Are First Teachers, and Preschool programs, known as Children & Family Centres.

In our Children & Family Centres we want our babies, toddlers and preschool children to be looked after and taught in a caring and thoughtful way so that our children’s spirit and body will grow strong and healthy.

PYEC Philosophy Statement for Early Childhood, 2012



Belonging together & growing partnerships

Children and Family Centres are integrated early childhood services combining playgroup, families are first teachers and preschool programs, that connect with other community agencies and services to support young Anangu children and their families.

These centres are staffed by an early childhood team of Anangu and Piranpa educators who specialise in early childhood education and care. The AEWs and teachers bring complementary knowledge and skills to create a ‘third space’ which honours Anangu ways of knowing and being while connecting with ‘western’ education. Anangu and Piranpa work together as co-educators, respecting the expertise and experience that each bring in creating the third space—a culturally safe and inclusive learning environment.

As the Anangu Lands are serviced by a large number of government and non-government agencies, an important role of the Children & Family Centre is to provide a space where families can access support and information about parenting and child development. The centre provides information, workshops and other resources to support learning and wellbeing for families, and actively initiates and facilitates connections with and between relevant agencies. In this way the Children and Family Centre is the hub for young children and families within the community, maximising the supports, resources, expertise and information available to Anangu families.

Collectively, early childhood practitioners [both Piranpa and Anangu] have a wealth of knowledge and experience that, when brought together, is well placed to ensure that children get a positive start to life, and that their families are supported in their important parenting role.

What the neuroscience says

The first 5 years matter and last a lifetime ...

The first 1,000 days of a person's life will determine the quality of the next 32,000. In this time a child's brain will grow to almost its full adult size. What happens in the first 5 years matters and will last a lifetime.

Healthy brain development and overall wellbeing in these early years requires strong attachment, relationships and interactions with adults, as well as good nutrition.

The Children and Family Centre plays an important role in ensuring young children have the best possible start in their learning journeys and that families get the support they need in parenting. They promote:

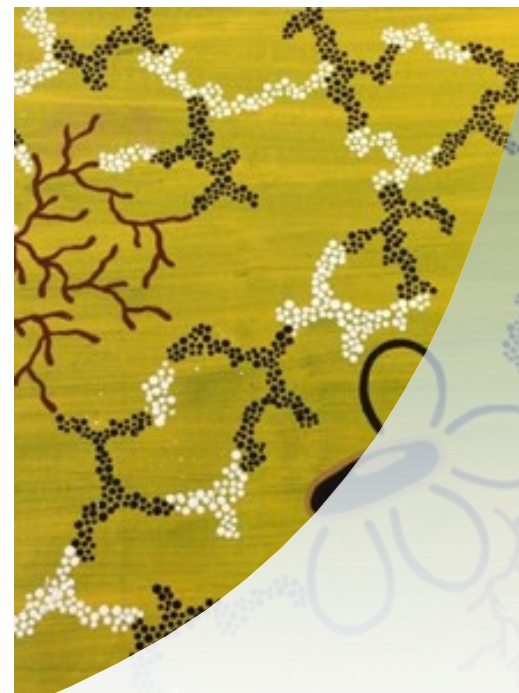
- Oral language development (Pitjantjatjara / Yankunytjatjara and English)
- Nurturing relationships & quality interactions
- Good nutrition and healthy living
- High quality learning environments.

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- ⇒ *3a—The Abecedarian Approach Australia.* University of Melbourne. www.3a.education.unimelb.edu.au
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...and so Children & Family Centres will work carefully to ensure that children:

- ⇒ experience and learn about Anangu and Pitjantjatjara cultures
- ⇒ Hear Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara language everyday through conversation, stories, songs, dances, learning games, and as they play (from AEWs and family members)
- ⇒ Hear English language everyday through conversation, stories, songs, dances, learning games, and as they play (from Pitjantjatjara teachers)
- ⇒ Experience clean, safe, high quality and well-resourced learning environments
- ⇒ Have access to healthy food everyday.



...and work closely with families and community so that:

- ⇒ Anangu ways of knowing, being and learning are kept and taught
- ⇒ families feel comfortable, safe and welcome in the centre
- ⇒ the story of brain development is shared with families and community.



Parental involvement in early learning has a greater impact on children's achievement and wellbeing than any other factor.

Gutman & Feinstein, 2007

Top 5 tips for building relationships in Children & Family Centres

in Anangu communities

1. Strong partnership between Anangu & Pitjantjatjara

The early years team includes Principals, Anangu Coordinators, teachers and AEWs in the Birth to 5 space. The team works in partnership, respecting each other's background, knowledge, experience and contribution to the service. This enables the team to develop place-based pedagogy & practices.

Working as co-educators, the team works collectively to ensure that the centre is responsive to the needs of the local community, provides a supportive environment for Anangu families, and a high quality and meaningful curriculum.

4. Open every day

The Children & Family Centre is open every weekday during school terms. This enables young children and their families to establish early patterns of regular attendance and experience the benefits of early childhood education and care.

The Children & Family Centre is a reliable community service available for support for families to provide for the learning and wellbeing of their children.

2. Connect with families

The team work closely to identify children between the ages of Birth to 5 years in the community and actively encourage families to enroll at the service. The Children & Family Centre is a safe place where families experience a sense of belonging.

The centre is recognized as a significant entry point for families into the school community. Every effort is made to ensure families feel welcome and family members are respected as partners in the child's learning journey.

5. Families Are First Teachers (FaFT)

Each Children and Family Centre is committed to supporting families as the first teachers of their children. In the playgroup this includes learning games played between adult and child, conversational reading, enriched caregiving through daily routines, and a commitment to making every experience an opportunity for talking, listening and learning language. The aim of the FaFT strategies is to build parenting capacity and involvement in young children's language learning. The playgroup establishes a strong partnership with families which continues on into the preschool and school.

All Children and Family Centre educators are trained to deliver the FaFT strategies. Resources that reflect local and cultural context are developed, used and shared.

3. Network with agencies

The Children & Family Centre plays a critical and proactive role in networking with other agencies and services to promote children's learning, health and wellbeing. The Children & Family Centre operates as a hub where families can access the services, support and information they need about child development and parenting.

The centre provides a space where visiting allied health and parenting professionals can come to meet with families in an informal setting.

Working from a strength-based view of children and families, the Children and Family Centre builds capacity within each family and within the community.