



Family Connections

A child's learning abilities are exponentially enhanced by the quality of the relationship they hold with educators and their families.

Goodstart has partnered with a number of allied health professionals and other support agencies to develop Family Connections – a unique program for centre directors and educators, created to enhance outcomes for children and their families in vulnerable circumstances. Family Connections aims to strengthen practice and relationships between educators, children and families by focusing on their strengths, resources and aspirations. This program highlights Goodstart's commitment to delivering on our social inclusion goals to support all of our families, particularly those most vulnerable.

Quality Area 6 (QA6) of the National Quality Standard recognises the vital importance of strong partnerships between services and families. This quality area is fully supported by contemporary evidence demonstrating the importance of the family as the child's first and most enduring teacher. It is also supported by evidence which identifies engaging with families and supporting them in their role can enhance children's wellbeing and life outcomes.

Family Connections is delivered in Learning Circles over the duration of a year and covers topics such as:

- Attachment based practices
- Communication
- Social, emotional and sensory development
- Crucial conversations
- Partnerships with families
- Community links

To enhance the outcomes of the program, dedicated Family Connections mentors from Goodstart support learning in action by visiting participants at their centre every month. The visit is focused on reflecting on priorities the centre is working on, discussing what is or is not working and how new knowledge is being shared across the centre.



Children's experiences are more positive and productive when they have a sense of personal wellbeing and are grounded in stable, caring relationships in their early lives.

Gould, 2002

