

# Mentor Training for Experienced Teachers

## Connecting mentors and mentees

### ***I am an early childhood provisionally registered teacher; how do I find a mentor?***

There are many different ways you can find a mentor. Some of these options may depend on your early childhood setting type.

Your manager or service director may be a good starting point to support you in finding a mentor at a nearby service. Other suggestions to locate a mentor include:

- if your service is an Early Years Management (EYM) organisation, the EYM manager may be able to determine if there is a potential mentor at a nearby service.
- if you are a member of an early childhood professional associations, you may contact them to find out if they are able to assist. Alternatively, you may consider joining one.
- use your professional network or alumni contacts
- consider networking opportunities such as conferences and professional development (your local government may also hold network events for early childhood services)
- consider becoming a member of relevant early childhood social media pages
- if your service is coordinated by local government, the relevant officer at the local government office may be able to determine if there is a potential mentor at a nearby service
- if your employer operates multiple services, your area manager or equivalent may be able to point you to an experienced teacher from another service.

In exceptional circumstances, where there is no suitable mentor at your or a nearby service, contacting the principal at a local primary school may be an option to find a potential mentor to support you in the process to become fully registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Options to find an early childhood mentor should have been exhausted first, which may include a mentoring relationship using email, phone and web communication rather than face-to-face.

The recommended composition of the panel is:

- a registered early childhood teacher
- a registered early childhood teacher or teacher who has participated in VIT's mentor training program
- another registered early childhood teacher or teacher colleague nominated by you, who knows your work.

### ***I am an early childhood teacher who has completed the Effective Mentoring Program; how do I find a mentee?***

There are many different ways you can find a provisionally registered teacher as a mentee. Some of these options may depend on your early childhood setting type. Use your networking opportunities such as professional associations, links with universities, relevant social media groups, local government and other Early Years Management organisations as appropriate to find a provisionally registered teacher at a nearby service.

