



Guidance to support planning for 2019 school readiness funding

Use this document to help complete your planning worksheet

School readiness funding (SRF) is an Australian first; needs-based funding for kindergartens that aims to reduce the impact of educational disadvantage on children's learning and development.

All funded kindergarten service providers must complete a SRF Annual Plan for each of their services. To build service knowledge of SRF and support the development of the SRF Annual Plan, all service providers are encouraged to participate in a planning workshop.

The following guidance and related worksheet will help you prepare for the workshop by supporting you to:

- collect and analyse important information about the children and families that attend your service(s)
- make preliminary choices on how you propose to spend school readiness funding, based on a menu of evidence-informed programs and supports (the menu).

Where to start

School readiness funding must be used to support outcomes for children in three priority areas, which are based on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (the VEYLDF).

Communication
(language development)

Wellbeing
(social and emotional regulation)

Access and inclusion

To optimise every child's learning and development it is imperative for professionals to work collaboratively and approach their work as continuous improvement. Quality and continuous improvement in our work requires a disciplined use of evidence to identify the needs of children, to set goals, plan for improvement and to monitor the implementation of programs and supports.

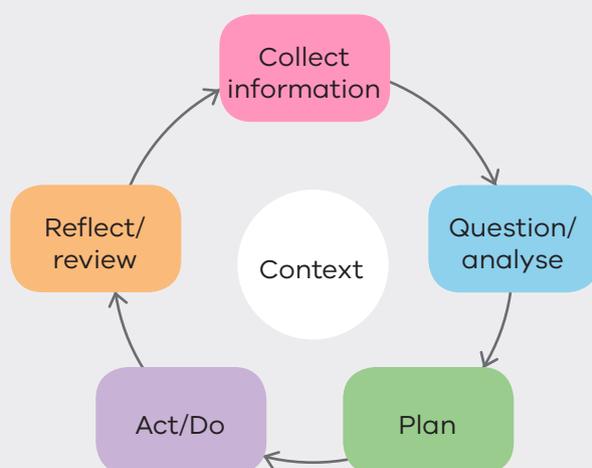


Figure 1: The VEYLDF Early Years Planning Cycle, adapted from the *Educators' Guide to the EYLF (2010)*

The Early Years Planning Cycle (Figure 1) is the framework to collect and analyse evidence that contributes to a detailed, up-to-date, picture of teacher practice and children's learning and development. The guidance and SRF Annual Plan follow the Early Years Planning Cycle.

You should develop your SRF Annual Plan as part of annual planning processes you already have in place. Your Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and, for EYMs, Service Improvement Plans (SIP), should be the main document(s) you refer to when developing your SRF Annual Plan.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Step 1

Collect information

Collate and collect information at a community/child, educator and service level to provide a picture of the recurrent learning and development needs of children and families that typically attend your service (Figure 2). Figure 2 suggests sources you can look at in addition to your QIP. Collate this information in the planning worksheet provided.

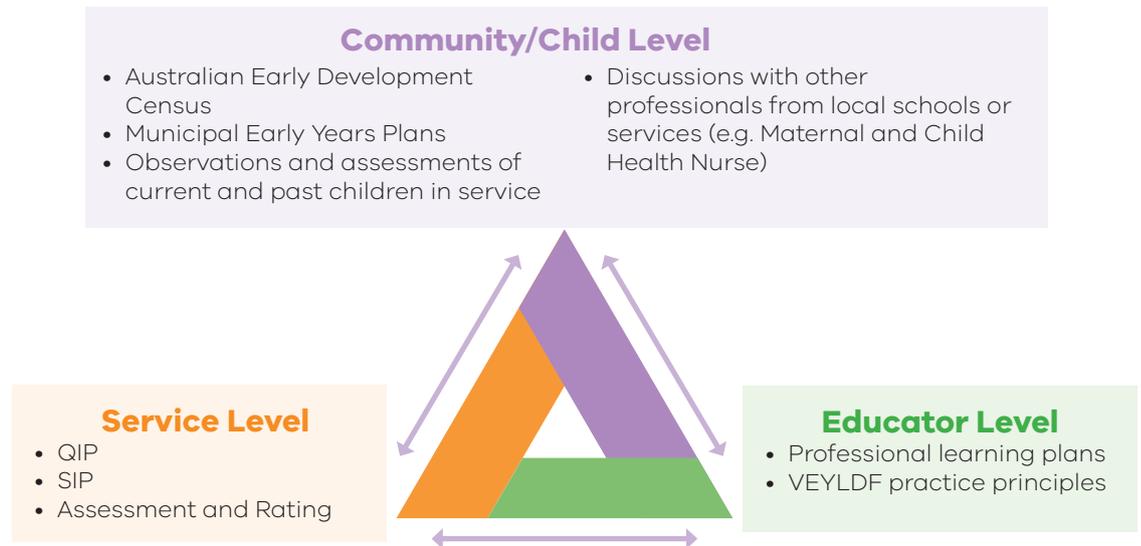


Figure 2: Collect information

Step 2

Question/analyse

Using the planning worksheet, question and analyse the information from Step 1.

Community/Child Level	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considering the school readiness priority areas, what are the commonly occurring needs of the families and children (not individual children) who typically attend the service? 2. What are the local community's demographics and characteristics that impact upon or contribute to these commonly occurring needs? 	
Service Level	Educator Level
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the focus of your service that is reflected in your QIP (and SIP for EYMs)? What are you trying to improve? 2. What are you already doing that you could build on to achieve your goals? Which school readiness funding priority areas align with these? 3. What do your NQF ratings tell you about how ready your service is to implement small or more complex practice changes? 	<p>Considering the commonly occurring needs for the children that typically attend your service, do your educators need particular/additional support/training to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. undertake intentional teaching, responsive teaching and scaffolding, child directed learning and critical reflection? 2. Support self-regulation and collaborative learning for children with these needs?

Step 3

Based on the answers from Step 2, identify on the planning worksheet the school readiness funding priority area(s) you will focus on.

Step 4

Familiarise yourself with the items from the menu that align with your chosen school funding priority area(s).