



INCLUSION IN ACTION

Family Connections Program



A child's learning is exponentially enhanced by the quality of the relationship they have with educators and their families.

At the heart of our inclusion strategy is our foundational social inclusion program, Family Connections. Family Connections is a unique program aimed at centre leaders to enhance outcomes for children and their families experiencing vulnerability.

Goodstart draws on over thirty years of evidence based research which helps us to understand how crucial early childhood experiences are to a child's learning, development and wellbeing.

The program is multi-disciplinary and is delivered by our Social Inclusion Coordinators, Child and Family Practitioners, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists, Teachers and community partners.

Family Connections aims to strengthen practice and relationships between educators, children and families by focusing on their strengths, resources and aspirations. In addition, the program supports centres in building connections with community services.

An independent evaluation of the program in 2017 found statistically significant, positive change in knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of educators following Family Connections training in respect of their inclusive practice with children and families experiencing disadvantage.



Program Structure & Delivery

Family Connections is delivered in one day workshops each month over one year. Opportunity for reflection on knowledge and practice as well as delivery of new information is provided.

Topics covered include leading change for children, attachment based practices, communication, social, emotional and sensory development, play and partnerships with families and local services.

Regular coaching is provided to every participating centre to support learning and embed new

practices. Coaches provide regular contact and visits to centres. This time is used to reflect on the priorities the centre is working on, discuss what is or is not working as well as how new knowledge is being shared with the centre team.

Achievements

- The program has been delivered in centres nation-wide
- The program is delivered to non-Goodstart centres in WA and Mt Druitt, NSW, through the generous funding of Woodside Development Fund and the Department of Housing NSW

Working inclusively ensures children belong. When children belong, they thrive.

We invest in enhanced programs and service models to ensure vulnerable children have opportunities to maximise their learning, development and wellbeing.

Learn more at goodstart.org.au/about-us/inclusion.

Goodstart Early Learning

We exist for social purpose. Australia's largest early learning and care provider.

Our Vision

is for Australia's children to have the best possible start in life.

Our Purpose

is to ensure children have the learning, development and wellbeing outcomes they need for school and life.

