

SELF-ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE

This activity is designed to assist educational or service leaders, to engage in reflective discussions with your team to identify genuine and authentic practices that might be exceeding the National Quality Standard (NQS), and how these practices align with the Exceeding NQS themes:

1. Practice is embedded in service operations
2. Practice is informed by critical reflection
3. Practice is shaped by meaningful engagement with families and/or the community.

To achieve an Exceeding NQS rating in any Standard, the three Exceeding NQS themes need to be demonstrated in your service for that Standard. Exceeding NQS requires you to demonstrate how you are going above and beyond for that Standard.

This activity will also assist in determining strengths in practice where there is evidence of Exceeding NQS themes, as well as areas to include in the service's Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

Remember:

- authorised officers will be observing, discussing and sighting evidence, so it is important to think about what evidence to share that will demonstrate the Exceeding NQS themes
- to identify the outcomes for children, families, and/or communities which have resulted
- some examples of practice may be relevant for more than one Exceeding NQS theme
- refer to the *Guide to the National Quality Framework* for Exceeding NQS practice indicators for each Standard and general guidance on the three themes.

SELF-ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE EXCEEDING NQS THEMES



RATED
EXCEEDING
NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

EXCEEDING NQS THEMES

Step 1 Choose a NQS Standard

Step 2 As a team, **brainstorm** practice that is high quality in your service in relation to that Standard.

Step 3 From your examples, **identify practice** that reflects the individual Exceeding NQS themes and record in the diagram over the page.

Step 4 **Think** about how to demonstrate the themes in practice, what might you want others to:

- observe
- discuss
- sight

Identify the **outcomes** for children/families.

Step 5 Take some time to celebrate your identified successes and think about what might be included in your QIP as part of the service's commitment to continual quality improvement.

Printing instructions

The Exceeding NQS themes activity can be printed in: A3 or A4 and in colour or black and white.

In **Settings**, choose the **Fit to page** and **Two-sided** options

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Practice is shaped by meaningful engagement with families and/or community

- Context of every service is unique.
- High quality practice suits the environmental context and location of the service.
- Reflects the voices, strengths and perspectives of children, families, the service and/or broader community.

Practice is embedded in service operations

- Quality practice is demonstrated consistently across the service.
- Sense of continuity and predictability for every child.
- Usual practice for all educators.
- Practices reflect the service philosophy.

Practice is informed by critical reflection

- Regular and ongoing critical reflection drives continuous quality improvement.
- New and established practices are considered to determine how they meet the rights and best interests of each child.
- Commitment to questioning, evaluating, analysing and ongoing learning.
- Voices of educators, leaders, families and communities are included in critical reflection across the service.

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