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| Children's Education and Care Assurance Alert | | |
| *The Children’s Education and Care Assurance Update links professionals, providers and educators with news, resources and information that supports quality outcomes for children in ACT education and care services*  **31 July 2020**  CECA would like to take this opportunity to thank all educators, service leaders and providers and services for their ongoing commitment to their service and wider community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.  **Reflecting and planning for continuous improvement**  While 2020 has been very challenging, times of change often provide important opportunities to review, reflect and plan for continuous improvement. [ACECQA’s Self-assessment Tool](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/assessment/quality-improvement-plans#SAT) can assist services to identify their strengths, compliance and opportunities for continuous improvement. This tool can guide services through the process of self-assessment which can, where needed, inform their Quality Improvement Plan.  **Early Learning Matters Week 2020**  From 3 to 7 August 2020 educators, parents, carers and community leaders around Australia will come together to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of early learning. Early Learning Matters Week is a chance to show how high-quality early learning supports children to be confident and capable learners, building a foundation for wellbeing and achievement throughout their lives.  In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s event will be different. Individuals can participate by:   * sharing photos of how they foster children’s learning or support education and care services. * posting a message about why early learning matters and * talking to colleagues about early learning in the context of the local community.   For more ideas on how to participate can be found on the new [Early Learning Matters 2020 website](https://www.earlylearningmatters.org.au/).  **Active supervision**  [ACECQA’s Active Supervision](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-04/QA2-ActiveSupervisionEnsuringSafetyAndPromotingLearning_1.pdf) fact sheet highlights how effective supervision is integral to creating environments that are safe and responsive to the needs of all children, helps to protect children from hazards or harm that may arise from their play and daily routines and allows educators to engage in meaningful interactions with children. Meeting the [minimum ratio requirements](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/educator-to-child-ratios) doesn’t not guarantee active supervision for all children.  **Responsive and respectful relationships**  Responsive, respectful and meaningful interactions with children build trusting relationships which engage and support them to feel secure, confident and included. [ACECQA’s Relationships with Children](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-07/QA5_RelationshipsWithChildren.pdf) fact sheet includes helpful strategies and reflective questions for service leaders and educators.  **Resources**  This free [*Making difficult decisions – choosing the right thing to do to move forward*](https://vimeo.com/420908202/6d74c558e6) professional learning video In this video Catharine Hydon and Dr Kate Highfield share ideas that can assist with ethical decision making during these difficult times. This The ACT Early Childhood Branch will be hosting [Trauma-sensitive practice and your wellbeing](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YY8MMJQ?fbclid=IwAR3U2jxzfSESBT6jSG_PlBZ68TTQ60mwWPCL2Sy507_V3WiT1ilDZzWP-E8) online event for branch members on 13 August 2020. For more information visit the ACT Early Childhood Branch website. For enquires in relation to this notification please call CECA on (02) 6207 1114 or email [CECA@act.gov.au](mailto:CECA@act.gov.au)  This email has been authorised by the ACT Regulatory Authority (CECA). CECA are responsible for administering the National Quality Framework within the ACT | | |

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