



Information Sheet

Early Years Network start up

Last updated: December 2025

What makes an Early Years Network (Network) successful?

- The needs of children and families are at the core of the work being done.
- There is active engagement and participation of local families and community members, alongside government and non-government service providers.
- Members are committed to a set of shared principles and behaviours with shared language and understanding.
- Collaborative practice including cooperation, partnership, networking and collective decision making is central.
- The focus is on local, place-based initiatives that identify and use local assets and capacities, and reflect local child development needs, strengths, resources and opportunities.

An effective Early Years Network will:

- know what it wants to achieve
- meet for purpose
- establish and maintain sound governance
- share roles and responsibilities
- have a current Terms of Reference
- be strategic and identify priorities
- develop an Action Plan and record outcomes
- value culture and diversity
- profile itself in the community
- work collaboratively.

How can we achieve this?

- Consult and plan with a broad group of children, families and community services as part of establishing a new Early Years Network.
- Develop a Terms of Reference and Action Plan that reflect the local priorities, using the templates provided.
- Structure meetings according to the Terms of Reference and Action Plan with a focus on the purpose of the Network.
- Base planning on evidence and data, alongside community consultation.

- Create a diverse membership by actively seeking out a range of members.
- Set clear expectations for collaboration.

More information

To find out more about Early Years Networks, please visit our website or contact:

- **Web:** www.communities.wa.gov.au
- **Email:** EY@communities.wa.gov.au