



Information Sheet

Establishing needs and opportunities and evaluating the impact of the Early Years Network

Last updated: December 2025

Identifying needs and opportunities for an Early Years Network (Network) provides the basis for decision making on projects and actions. Evaluating impact means monitoring and measuring the effectiveness of the Action Plan.

To establish the needs and opportunities and evaluate the impact, analysis of data is required. Data can include:

1. **Quantitative data:** Gathering information in the form of countable data, such as pre-school attendance rates, number of families using the local toy library, or service ratings.
2. **Qualitative data:** Gathering information in the form of descriptions. Open-ended questions can be valuable. Examples of qualitative data include parent feedback about what works well, barriers to local services, and reasons for choices.

Data can be obtained from:

- analysing existing data
- undertaking questionnaires/surveys
- undertaking interviews
- undertaking focus groups
- obtaining story dialogue
- informal discussions.

Depending on the purpose of the information being collected, it may be suitable to consult:

- parents, carers and grandcarers
- child development services
- community development sector
- community members or business/political leaders.

When establishing needs and opportunities or evaluating an action, it is important to understand:

- What is the issue?
- What is the proposed program?
- Who are the participants?
- What are the goals?
- What is our strategy?

- How will our strategy contribute to achieving the goals?

This will guide how outcomes are measured. It is useful to consider:

- What would success look like?
- How can we measure success?
- How much did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- Did anything change?
- What works and why? What does not work and why?
- How have things changed over time and for whom?
- Are we achieving our vision and mission? Are we achieving our action plan?

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