



MEDIA RELEASE

Centre Support

Early childhood educators will benefit from innovative research investigating babies and toddlers sense of belonging in early childhood settings.

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Centre Support and Charles Sturt University (CSU) have partnered to undertake groundbreaking research into babies and toddlers sense of belonging in early childhood settings, particularly in at risk communities. The project will assist educators to implement the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

The project will build the first evidence-base to help understand how a sense of 'belonging' develops in very young children attending early childhood and care services. It will also explore ways in which babies and toddlers might contribute to parents', educators' and older childrens' sense of belonging.

The Director of Centre Support, [Matthew Stapleton](#), has been selected by CSU to take a leading role in the research project. Mr Stapleton is also an adjunct member of CSU's Research Institute for Professional Practice, Learning and Education ([RIPPLE](#)).

Mr Stapleton has partnered with CSU's Professor of Early Childhood Education Jennifer Sumsion, Professor of Early Childhood Education Linda Harrison, lead authors of the EYLF, and Professor of Psychology Ben Bradley. Funding of \$227,000 has been awarded through the [Australian Research Council's](#) peer reviewed selection process.

"Centre Support's contribution will go directly towards improving the knowledge of early childhood educators across Australia", Mr Stapleton said.

"Centre Support is committed to engaging in practical research that empowers early childhood educators across Australia with greater knowledge of how to confidently implement the EYLF."

"This builds on our proud history of finding practical solutions to real problems faced by early childhood educators as they continue to implement the EYLF."

"The partnership between Centre Support and CSU is designed to create an authentic link between industry and academic research."

Centre Support will be well placed to provide training and resources to the early childhood education and care sector once the findings are known, both through its customer network of 3,500 services across Australia and directly with the industry.

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