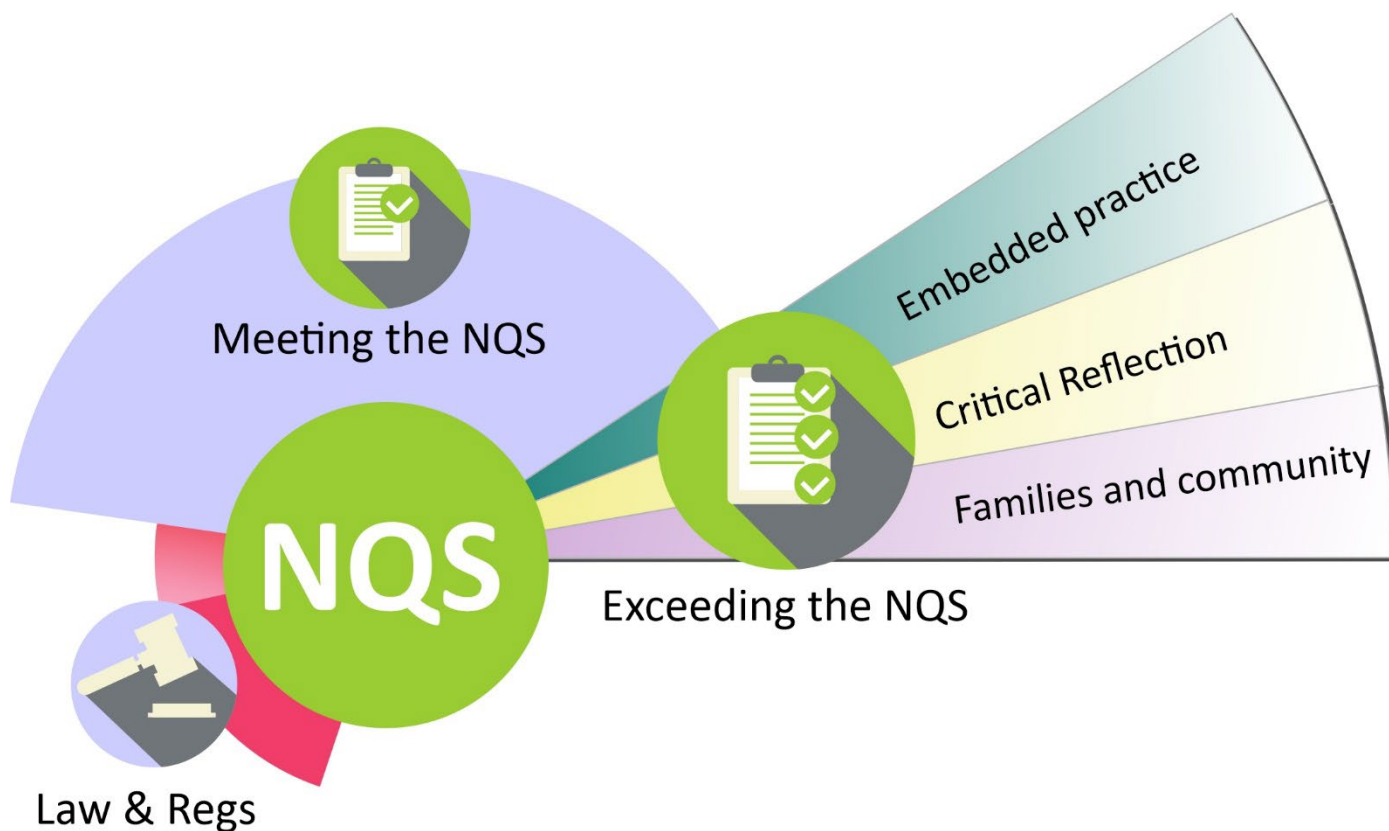


Critical reflection on children's learning and development, both as individuals and in groups, drives program planning and Implementation.

**Section 1. We show you exactly what is required for this element to be meeting and exceeding.**



**First step:** We must ensure the Law and Regulations are always met. **Second step:** look at the NQS and work through the process of meeting the element. **Third step:** then we can look at and complete the exceeding themes.

The logo above shows the effort required to do these three components. It should be easy and take little time to meet the Law and Regulations once you know what is required. Meeting then can become everyday practice, while exceeding takes a lot more time, thinking, connecting to families and community and practice change.

***The Educators and Educational Leaders pages give you exactly what you need to be meeting and exceeding.***



#### Law section 168 Offence relating to required programs

(1) and (2) The approved provider and nominated supervisor must ensure that a program is delivered to all children ... that (a) is based on an approved learning framework; and

(b) is delivered in a manner that accords with the approved learning framework; and

(c) is based on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child; and

(d) is designed to take into account the individual differences of each child.

Penalty: **\$4000**, in the case of an individual. **\$20 000**, in any other case.

**Evidence to show compliance** to the Law can be found in our curriculum and demonstrated through the use of the practices and principles and learning outcomes of the EYLF.

Please note that the above in green can go directly into your QIP or SAT (NSW only).

#### Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection

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## Meeting the NQS

**Looking at the element in detail** - Element 1.3.2 educators must:

- look *closely* at events, experiences, guiding principles, and their practices from different viewpoints.
- use what they discover to identify practice that can continue and practice that needs changing to improve children’s participation, learning and development.
- identify how they may improve the program.

**Meeting** - Educators look closely at events, experiences, guiding principles, and their practices from different viewpoints. By doing so, they identify practices that were effective and those that required improvement to enhance children's participation, learning, and development. Through the process of reflection, educators gathered insights and identified areas for improvement that helped to enhance the program. By continuously reflecting on their practice, educators ensured that the program is evolving to meet the needs of the children and support their ongoing learning and development.

Please note that the above in green can go directly into your QIP or SAT (NSW only) with your examples added to it.



## Exceeding the NQS

*Educators consistently use reflections to improve the design and implementation of the program. Examples include the following. We:*

- time activities to meet children’s physical/energy/concentration needs.
- constantly monitor the size of group activities.

### **Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection**

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- include more activities promoting local cultures.
- always look to increase community connections.
- always look to increase our focus on children’s voices and ideas for the curriculum.
- support our educators’ efforts to learn/research with the children.
- support our educators’ efforts to implement more risky/messy play.
- always look to increase our focus on learning from routines and transitions.
- provide opportunities for mixed-age activities/learning.
- always look to increase our focus on adapting activities to include children with additional needs.

**Exceeding – Embedded Practice** Our educators consistently use reflections to improve the design and implementation of the program. We do this during our Monday meetings and ensure the timing of activities meets children’s physical energy and concentration needs. We vary the size of group activities, create leadership opportunities with children, and increase community connections with daily excursions. Routines and transitions increase our focus on learning. We support our educators learning/researching with the children.

Please note that the above in green can go directly into your QIP or SAT (NSW only).



### **Exceeding - Critically Reflecting –**

*All educators have opportunities to contribute to critical reflection and can challenge taken-for-granted practices and assumptions. For example:*

#### **Critical Reflection**

- Educators have opportunities to contribute to critical reflection and challenge taken-for-granted practices and assumptions.
- Weekly reflection sessions allow educators to review the effectiveness of the program and identify areas for improvement.
- Changes are made if required based on the reflections of educators.
- Ongoing professional development enables educators to update their knowledge and skills to better support children's learning and development.

- All educators' reflections are valued, regardless of age and experience.
- A culture of open and constructive feedback allows educators to challenge each other's assumptions and support each other's professional growth.

**Exceeding – Critical reflections.** All our educators can contribute to critical reflection and challenge taken-for-granted practices and assumptions. For example, educators contribute to weekly reflections and make changes if required. The Ed Leader assists and guides all educators' reflections, and there is a culture of educators coming to the Ed Leader for assistance. This informs discussions and practice to ensure children, regardless of age and experience, are valued.

Please note that the above in green can go directly into your QIP or SAT (NSW only).



Families



Community Links

Educators regularly use families' comments and feedback to inform reflection. This includes, for example, feedback about:

- specific topics/activities that could be included.
- their child's circumstances (at home), needs including additional needs, and interests.
- families' expectations that are/are not being met and why.
- educator performance
- incidents.

**Exceeding – families and community** Our educators regularly use families' comments and feedback to inform reflection. Children's home circumstances, needs including additional needs, and interests form critical reflection. Families' expectations and concerns about their child's performance cause us to reflect on the service's performance. We bring families' concerns about individual educator performance to the attention of the Nom Sup, and reflect on all incidents.

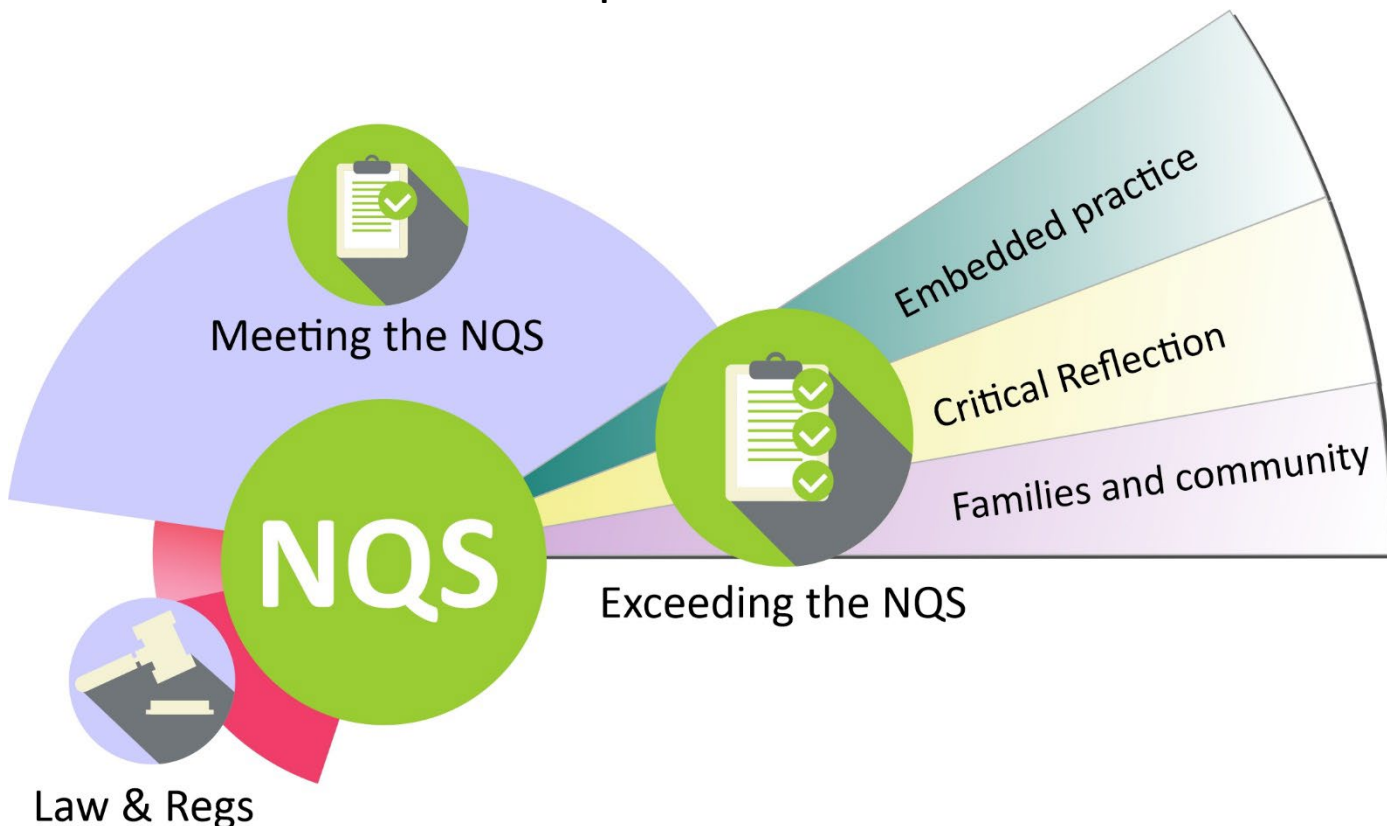
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### Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection

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Critical reflection on children's learning and development, both as individuals and in groups, drives program planning and implementation.

### Educational Leader and Nominated Supervisor



**First step:** We must ensure the Law and Regulations are always met. **Second step:** then we look at the NQS and work through the process of meeting the element. **Third step:** then we can look at and complete the exceeding themes.

The logo above shows the effort required to do these three components. It should be easy and take little time to meet the Law and Regulations once you know what is required. Meeting then can become everyday practice, while exceeding takes a lot more time, thinking, connecting to families and community and practice change.

There are **7 things** that you need to do with your service and educators.

- (1) Review the points from the Law and make yourself familiar with them.
- (2) To help your educators learn watch this online video explaining intentional teaching. Click below.



Video  
Training

<https://vimeo.com/574618627/6384195d75>

- (3) Add to your folder the daily planner so you can document and show the assessor how you are working with educators. Use documents provided in this section.

- (4) Guide your educators to ensure they are at the meeting level, use the examples in the educators' section and the checklist to help you know exactly what is required.
- (5) Explore the exceeding themes with the examples in the educators' section and your section for critical reflection.
- (6) Take time to read the VERY ADVANCED critical reflection about children's voices.
- (7) Work with your Nominated Supervisor and edit the QIP (SAT for NSW) template provided by Centre Support to ensure it is reflecting your service's practices.

#### Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection

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## Compliance test for educators

**Instructions: Nominated Supervisor is to** conduct the test. Ask one educator at a time in a location that other educators cannot hear or provide support to the educators being asked the question. Record the responses then analyse to see if the educators' responses would place you at risk of a fine. Finally, train the educators that fail to meet the regulations.

Name of educator:

Questions	Response	Pass or Fail
Mr Brett asked if there's anything in the Regs about critical reflection – or is it just an NQS requirement? Please respond.		
Miss Tamiaka says she's confused about the difference between reflection and evaluation. Please explain the difference.		
Miss Skye asks if there's any 'right' way to document critical reflection. Is there?		

### Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection

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## Educational Leader weekly sheet

Date	Educational Leader activity	With whom?	Comments	Follow up
Monday 20.3.23	Identifying educators understanding of the words we use in ECEC	Educators that are struggling	It was identified by an educator that wanted to resign because she felt that she wasn't good enough because she didn't understand the words we used.	Create a back to basic concepts that are broken down into simple descriptions of what practice could look like and how the ECEC word is connected.
Monday 20.3.23				
Tuesday 21.3.23				
Wednesday 22.3.23				
Thursday 23.3.23				
Friday 24.3.23				

## General thoughts or ideas

**Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection**

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## Exceeding the NQS

In the educators' section we have included critical reflection examples and a process of documenting if it is occurring or not occurring at an exceeding level.

**Go through your education reflections and identify the following. If you cannot see it, then, assist by coaching them through the process.**

*Educators consistently use reflections to improve the design and implementation of the program. Examples include the following. We:*

Time activities to meet children's physical/energy/concentration needs.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Constantly monitor the size of group activities.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Include more activities promoting local cultures.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Always look to increase community connections.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Always look to increase our focus on children's voices and ideas for the curriculum.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Support our educators' efforts to learn/research with the children.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Support our educators' efforts to implement more risky/messy play.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Always look to increase our focus on learning from routines and transitions.

Yes  No, follow up required?

### Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection

Provide opportunities for mixed-age activities/learning.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Always look to increase our focus on adapting activities to include children with additional needs.

Yes  No, follow up required?

**Exceeding – Embedded Practice** Our educators consistently use reflections to improve the design and implementation of the program. We do this during our Monday meetings and ensure the timing of activities meets children’s physical energy and concentration needs. We vary the size of group activities, create leadership opportunities with children, and increase community connections with daily excursions. Routines and transitions increase our focus on learning. We support our educators learning/researching with the children.

Please note that the above in green can go directly into your QIP or SAT (NSW only).



## Very advanced critical reflection. Are we really capturing the child’s voice?

### Critical Reflection

The NQS says “Educators are committed to listening to children’s voices and to trying to understand their perspectives so that they can honour children’s rights to have input into matters that affect them.” Educators must recognise the importance of capturing the complexity and multiplicity of the very young child's voice. However, traditional assessment methods in the ECEC field often fail to do so, which is where **dialogic methodology** comes in. This approach, based on the works of Russian philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin, they emphasise the importance of language as a social entity and recognises that language is meaning.

To employ dialogic methodology in practice educators can use video and interview methods to approach everyday acts and examine the interpretations of a teacher, parents, and the researcher in scrutinising language acts of young children. By using utterance as a central unit of analysis and genre as a framework for analysis, educators can 'see' more through the eyes of others in dialogue, providing insights into both the toddlers and those who sought to understand them.

Dialogic methodology expands the notion of 'voice' beyond speech to visual acts of social engagement with others, creating opportunities for educators to glimpse the complex personality of an individual within the world. It is important to recognise the ways in which interpretations of voice are limited or expanded through the methodologies employed, and dialogic methodology presents a means of expanding and appreciating voice as a multiple construct within, between, and beyond the 'self'.

Using dialogic methodology is an ethical, pedagogical, and empirical imperative for early childhood education practice and research. It recognizes the subjectivities of those who take photographs, shoot film, or employ other means of observing the child, offering an alternative means of entering into the semiotic sphere of the toddler. By actively engaging with the toddler's many and varied genres of voice, dialogic methodology enables those who are

### Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection



potentially voiceless to have their complex and multiplicities voice(s) 'seen' in documentation.

In conclusion, early childhood educators must recognise the importance of dialogic methodology and employ it in their practice and research to ensure that the very young child is truly seen and heard. By recognising the importance of language as a social entity, using video and interview methods, and expanding the notion of 'voice' beyond speech, educators can employ dialogic methodology to 'see' the very young child and provide a means of expanding and appreciating voice as a multiple construct within, between, and beyond the 'self'.



Families



Community Links

Go through your education reflections and identify the following. If you cannot see it, then, assist by coaching them through the process.

the process.

Educators regularly use families' comments and feedback to inform reflection. This includes, for example, feedback about:

Specific topics/activities that could be included.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Their child's circumstances (at home), needs including additional needs, and interests.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Families' expectations that are/are not being met and why.

Yes  No, follow up required?

Educator performance

Yes  No, follow up required?

Incidents.

Yes  No, follow up required?

**Exceeding – families and community** Our educators regularly use families' comments and feedback to inform reflection. Children's home circumstances, needs including additional needs, and interests form critical reflection. Families' expectations and concerns about their child's performance cause us to reflect on the service's performance. We bring families' concerns about individual educator performance to the attention of the Nom Sup, and reflect on all incidents.

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**Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection**



## Answers from last week - Compliance test for educators

**Instructions: Nominated Supervisor is to** conduct the test. Ask one educator at a time in a location that other educators cannot hear or provide support to the educators being asked the question. Record the responses then analyse to see if the educators' responses would place you at risk of a fine. Finally, train the educators that fail to meet the regulations.

Name of educator:

Questions	Response	Pass or Fail
Miss Lily asks what educators have to assess exactly. Please respond.	Reg 74 says educators must assess each child's developmental needs, interests, experiences and participation in the educational program.	
Miss Daphne says assessment usually involves comparing something against a standard. What are they comparing children's needs, interests, experiences and participation against? Please explain.	Assessments must be carried out by comparing each child's progress against the outcomes of the educational program. (reg 74)	
Mr Kyle is confused about how much assessing educators need to document. What's your response	There's no specific amount of documentation required. As you'd expect though, there should be more documentation for those children that attend more than others. (Reg 74)	

### Week 8, 20 to 24 March 2023 – 1.3.2 Critical Reflection

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