



We have covered the Law and Regulations for this element in the previous weeks.

Law & Regs

Why is the element important?

Looking at the element in detail - Element 1.2.3 and understood educators must recognise children's capabilities, and support and encourage children to:

1. make choices which support their own wellbeing and that of others.
2. choose, plan for and help set up play experiences and activities.
3. develop skills in assessing risk.

Educators encourage children to plan and set up activities they choose.

Educators ensure all children are given opportunities to lead activities.

Educators support children to manage their behaviours, and express their feelings and ideas, as they interact and collaborate with peers.

Educators support children to assess and manage the risk involved in an activity or experience. For example, when children:

- are encouraged in risky play
- work with carpentry tools
- cook (burns/sharp knives)
- go on excursions (road safety, water hazards)
- are involved in activities with animals/pets
- need to understand their environment (hot surfaces, storms, plant allergens, child protection issues).

Educators support children's attempts to gain new skills or knowledge. Examples include the following:

- how to use IT
- how to research issues about interests and questions they have
- during numeracy/literacy/STEM activities
- during physical activity skills (kicking, throwing, jumping, team sports)
- how to use tools/resources properly – or in different ways
- when displaying visual art techniques such as dance and singing
- during cultural learning.

What could potentially go wrong if educators didn't do the above?

Lack of Wellbeing and Safety - Diminished Self-care:

Without encouragement to make choices supporting their wellbeing, children might not learn essential self-care skills, leading to poor health habits. **Safety Risks:** Failure to teach and supervise risk assessment could lead to accidents or injuries, especially during activities involving risky play or the use of tools.

Delayed Autonomy and Decision-making - Reduced Confidence and Independence:

Children might develop a dependency on adults for decision-making, hindering their confidence and ability to act independently. **Limited Problem-solving Skills:** Not being allowed to plan and set up activities can prevent children from learning to solve problems and think critically.

Stifled Creativity and Interest - Lack of Engagement:

Without the opportunity to choose and lead activities, children may become disengaged, losing interest in learning. **Suppressed Creativity:** Not supporting children's attempts to gain new skills can stifle creativity and inhibit the exploration of their interests and talents.

Poor Social and Emotional Development - Impaired

Social Skills: Failure to manage behaviours and express feelings appropriately can lead to social isolation or difficulty in forming healthy relationships.

Emotional Insecurity: Without support in expressing ideas and feelings, children might develop emotional insecurities, impacting their self-esteem and resilience.

Restricted Learning and Development - Limited

Exposure to Diverse Skills: Neglecting to support children in activities like IT, numeracy, literacy, STEM, and cultural learning can restrict their exposure to diverse skills and knowledge. **Narrowed Physical Development:** Not encouraging physical activities or properly using tools and resources can limit children's physical development and fine motor skills.

Safety Concerns in Specific Situations - Increased

Accident Risk: In activities involving cooking, excursions, or interactions with animals, failure to teach and supervise safety measures could result in accidents or harm. **Environmental Unawareness:** Not educating children about environmental dangers (e.g., hot surfaces, storms, allergens) could lead to preventable injuries or allergic reactions.



To address potential challenges arising from not creating child directed learning include:

You must practice

Foster Wellbeing and Safety

- **Promote Self-care Skills:** Incorporate activities that encourage children to make healthy choices for themselves and others, teaching essential self-care and hygiene habits.
- **Teach Risk Assessment:** Regularly engage children in discussions and practical activities to understand and manage risks, ensuring they know how to stay safe during various types of play and learning activities.

Enhance Autonomy and Decision-making

- **Encourage Independent Choices:** Provide ample opportunities for children to make decisions about their learning and play, supporting them in weighing options and consequences.

- **Develop Problem-solving Skills:** Through guided play and exploration, help children learn to tackle challenges, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Support Creativity and Interest

- **Offer Choice and Leadership:** Allow children to choose, plan, and lead activities, giving them a voice in what and how they learn to boost engagement and ownership of learning.
- **Nurture Skills and Talents:** Identify and support children's interests and talents, providing resources and opportunities to explore and develop these areas further.

Promote Social and Emotional Development

- **Facilitate Social Skills:** Create environments and situations where children can interact, collaborate, and build relationships with peers, guided by positive modeling and conflict resolution strategies.
- **Support Emotional Expression:** Encourage children to express their feelings and ideas in constructive ways, offering validation and tools for emotional regulation.

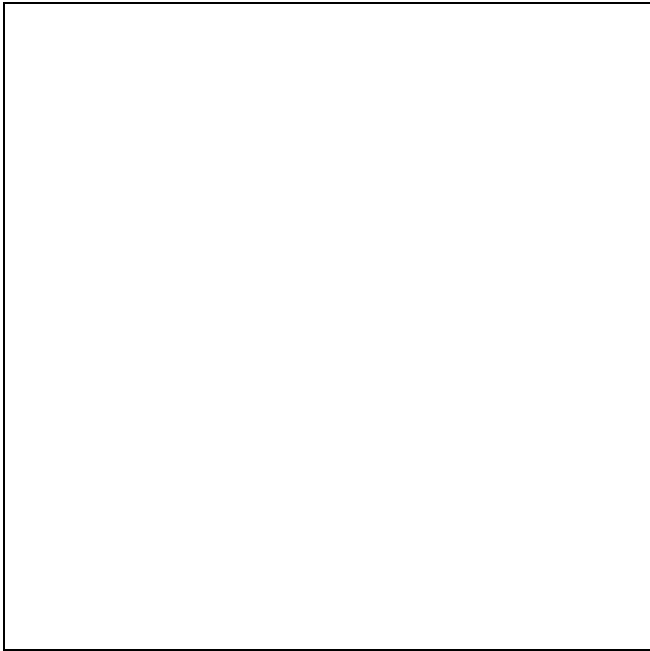
Expand Learning and Development

- **Diversify Learning Opportunities:** Integrate a wide range of activities across areas such as IT, STEM, literacy, and the arts, ensuring children have access to various learning experiences.
- **Encourage Physical Activities:** Provide a mix of activities that promote both fine and gross motor skills, from using tools safely to participating in sports and physical games.

Address Safety Concerns in Specific Situations

- **Implement Safety Education:** For activities with inherent risks (e.g., cooking, excursions), explicitly teach safety protocols and supervise closely, making learning about safety an integral part of the experience.
- **Raise Environmental Awareness:** Educate children about potential environmental hazards and how to respond, ensuring they understand the importance of safety in different settings.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you are doing well? Describe your practice in detail so it can go directly into you QIP or SAT (NSW only).



After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you need to work on? Describe how you could improve your practice.

