

Productivity Commission

Private Submission

As quoted in The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia- A vision for children's learning- all children experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life.

What does that mean?

As I reflected on this, I was distracted by the sounds of two educators and a parent as they engaged in a lovely warm and positive way with a 14 month old little boy in the adjoining hallway.

This little boy was obviously very comfortable with the level of attention he was getting because he was smiling confidently from the safety of his mummy's arms. He was leaving the early education and care service for the day and he was being farewelled in such a genuine and sincere way, I thought about what is he learning?

He is learning about his identity, experiencing the joy of being loved by caring adults.

He is learning what he does and how he interacts with his family and his educators is very important- he has a sense of agency and he can control his world- he is nurtured and developing a strong sense of attachment.

He is learning that his mummy and his educators are building relationships that will ensure he is accepted and supported.

He is learning that he is part of a community- he is connected, he is valued.

He is learning that from a safe foundation he can take risks because he feels protected.

He is learning that a sense of security and sound wellbeing will give him the confidence to experiment and explore.

These diploma qualified educators have a deep and abiding understanding of how safe, secure and loving attachment is very important in the early years and sets the foundation for lifelong learning.

Why would we not give Australia's future citizens the best possible start?

It was a very powerful moment and the thought that this 14 month old baby and all of his peers may not have the opportunity to learn, grow and develop in such a positive environment with skilled educators provoked me to write my private submission.

Thank you for taking the time to read, reflect and consider my words.

Debbie Davern

Area Manager