Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Kindergarten–Year 2
EYLF
Early Years Learning Framework

PRINCIPLE

Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships

Relationships are fundamental to the development of children's identity, forming the foundation for their learning, development and wellbeing. Through relational pedagogy, educators move beyond simply responding to children, to engaging in meaningful, sustained interactions characterised by trust, respect, reciprocity and genuine care. By seeking to understand each child's perspectives, strengths, interests and ways of being, educators co-construct learning and foster agency, supporting children to see themselves as competent, capable and respected.

Through a widening network of secure relationships with educators, peers, families and communities, children develop confidence and a sense of belonging, to feel safe and valued. These relationships support children to understand how their actions and behaviours affect themselves and others, while developing self-regulation and a growing sense of responsibility.

By intentionally fostering positive relationships between children, educators promote their autonomy, interdependence and collaboration. Through culturally safe and responsive interactions and practices, educators demonstrate inclusive approaches that recognise children's backgrounds and support their participation, sense of identity and agency.

Reflective Question 1

How do your pedagogical practices value and respond to each child, and how do you know these practices support their agency, competence, wellbeing and sense of belonging?

Reflective Question 2

How do you intentionally support children to build positive relationships with peers, promoting collaboration, empathy and a sense of responsibility?

Reflective Question 3

How do you use culturally and linguistically safe and responsive practices to recognise children's diversity and support their participation, agency and emotional wellbeing?

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