



# Update

June | 2018

## What does exceeding NQS really mean?

A rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standard (NQS) means going above and beyond what is expected at the Meeting NQS level for a standard. Looking at the three themes, what do the words used really describe and what is their meaning?

Theme 1: Practice is embedded in service operations:

- This means it's entrenched, unshakeable, deep-rooted and instilled.

Theme 2: Practice is informed by critical reflection:

- Reflection is detailed, judgmental, vital and important.
- It includes thinking, consideration, thought, contemplation and deliberation.

Theme 3: Practice is shaped by meaningful engagement with families and/or the community:

- There is respect and recognition for families as primary people for their child.
- Relationships are responsive and reciprocal.
- There is recognition that children feel more confident and connected to their environment when good relationships are in place with families.
- It is known that a sense of belonging creates an engagement both between families and communities.

## Safety first with slime

A recent report we received about a child able to access and ingest borax powder used in a slime-making activity has prompted us to remind about safety.

Borax, in powder form before it is mixed with other ingredients to make slime, poses a significant risk to children. Children under five are at greatest risk of poisoning.

To avoid this, it is essential that service staff ensure:

- they conduct risk assessments before such activities so children are protected from harm and hazards
- all ingredients used are safe
- children are adequately supervised during activities.

Slime can be made with other ingredients that provide all the fun without the risks. There are a number of borax-free recipes online. Please be aware that borax can also be referred to as sodium borate or sodium tetraborate in recipes.

## Service fees due 1 July

Has your service paid its annual service fee? Education and care services who have not paid this by 1 July will unfortunately incur a 15% penalty per month.

## Review of School Registration

Most schools were required by 29 June to conduct a self-review with the school principal verifying that the school meets all Standards. At the time of publication, over 95% of self-reviews were received and verified as meeting the Standards, indicating a high level of compliance with the regulations for registration of a school in South Australia.

In addition, 11 schools have participated in a validation review of registration. All schools were able to comprehensively demonstrate that they meet the Standards for Registration and Review of Registration.

## Hello from our senior managers

Whatever area of education and care you work in—whether you're in Adelaide, Coomandook, Yalata or somewhere in between—hello and thanks for working with us. Together, we can make education and care in SA the very best it can be.



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