



Information for FDC Educators

What is the ORICL project?

This project introduces a digital tool, **Observe, Reflect, Improve Children's Learning (ORICL)** designed by experts in the field in collaboration with early childhood education and care service providers and educators, to support the everyday practice of educators working with infants and toddlers aged birth to 2 years.

What is the digital ORICL tool?

The ORICL digital tool provides a set of prompts across six domains to assist educators to notice, record, and interpret the day-to-day interactions, relationships, and learning experiences of very young children in family day care. The ORICL items and domains are aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework, V2.0 (EYLF) principles, practices and learning outcomes and supports the EYLF planning cycle process.

What are the benefits to educators using ORICL?

Participating in this study will offer educators access to a free tool aimed at enhancing their observations and judgements about the learning, development and wellbeing of infants and toddlers. Previous trials of the ORICL tool in family day care settings have shown that it contributed to educators' understanding of young children's learning and development and supported their critical reflections on each child. They also found that it helped them with their planning cycle (observe, assess, plan, implement, evaluate) and assisted them in communicating their practices with colleagues and parents. Overall, the use of the tool contributed to an increased sense of professionalism.

What have educators from the pilot study had to say about using the ORICL tool?

"When we do observations we tend to just look at one specific area but this allows me to have a view of the child as a whole – I know we're meant to but we just tend to observe what we see but don't get the whole picture, so some things, I don't even think of but when I answer the questions it's 'oh yeah, that's very important as well!'"

"A lot of things in the survey made me think about things in a different way. You kind of get stuck in tunnel vision when you are doing observations, the wording of it made me think about it differently."

How will my privacy be protected?

All research data will be stored in line with Macquarie University Digitally Enabled Research and Research Integrity units. All participant names (educators and children) are replaced with pseudonyms and the service name replaced with a location code for any reports, publications, and/or presentations arising from this research. Data will not be shared with any third party.

For more information go to <https://oricl.org>.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please speak to your FDC Coordinator.



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How does ORICL support the EYLF planning cycle ?

The EYLF (V2.0) outlines the planning cycle as the process educators follow for observing, documenting, responding to and supporting children's learning (p. 27).

The ORICL tool will assist educators to **observe** each child effectively, to gather rich and meaningful information and to use this to **assess** the child's learning, development, and wellbeing. This provides educators with a strong foundation to **plan** and **implement** strategies and experiences to enrich and extend the child's learning and to **evaluate** the effectiveness of their planning, identifying opportunities for continuous quality improvement in programs and practices.



The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2.0, 2022