ORICL
OBSERVE REFLECT IMPROVE CHILDREN'S LEARNING

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Newsletter #2
June 2025

Welcome to our second ORICL Newsletter and a special welcome to our new centres and educators in 2025. We hope you and your children and families have settled into 2025. On behalf of the Macquarie, CSU, and QUT Research Team, we thank you for your continuing support of the ORICL Project.

What's new since the last newsletter?

New Item Reference Guides (and what are they?)

'*Item reference guides*' are a printable version of all of the ORICL items/questions (including the colour coding for the child, the child's peers, and the educator) that can be handy to use in the room when it isn't convenient to log into the digital tool. The guides can also support other educators in your room to collaborate and provide additional feedback or insights into the child's learning.

In response to educator feedback, we are pleased to announce a new 'series' of Item Reference Guides. In case you haven't taken a peek, we now have versions with space to write your notes or observations. These are available in *Member Only Resources* when logged into your account and can be printed out by a single domain or as one document including all domains.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: ORICL mapped to NQS Exceeding themes

We are pleased to announce the release of a document that maps your participation in the ORICL Project to the Standards and Elements for NQS Exceeding themes. Standards and Elements relevant to the ORICL project are listed and sample text is provided for Standard 1.1.2. To complement this document and support the A&R process, we also have an 'Item Reference Guide' (printable ORICL questions) that lists *only* the Educator ORICL items – perfect for self-reflection or discussion points at a staff meeting.

The '*Snapshot of ORICL for NQS Exceeding Themes*' and '*ORICL Tool ITEM Reference Guide: Educator Aspect*' can be found in the *Member Only Resources*. Don't forget that you can also print a Child Summary with *only* the Educator aspect when you have filled in ratings and/or observations (see page 22 of the User Guide).

Child Summaries with photos are now available

Described in our December newsletter, the feature of generating a Child Summary is now available. You can do this at any time – you don't have to wait to finish and submit the tool. The summary will include all comments/observations you have entered, and you can now choose whether or not to include your uploaded photos in the summary. More information and a step-by-step guide can be found on page 21 of the latest User Guide V2.2 (attached) and available in the *Member Only Resources* when logged into your account.

Educators, please note that the summaries are for educators use as a professional practice tool and to help start and support conversations with families and other educators. They were not intended to be shared with the child's parents.

MACQUARIE University · Charles Sturt University · Queensland University of Technology · UNSW SYDNEY · McMaster University · University of the Sunshine Coast Australia

Your participation in the ORICL Project is more than just using the tool

Did you know that when you use the ORICL tool to observe children, you are participating in the co-design of the tool? The ORICL *research* project is the *trial* of the digital ORICL tool, meaning that this is not necessarily the final product. By participating in the project and providing feedback via the 'Response to ORICL survey' you are helping the Research Team to shape the tool for the future. That is why your participation and feedback is so very important to us. So, thank you!

Please refer to our *new* information sheet in *Member Only Resources* – '*What the ORICL tool* is *and* is not*!*' for more information.

Thinking of observing another child or children?

Are there other infant/toddler educators who could benefit by joining the project?

Let us know and we can send you the educator consent and registration link for your centre.

If you have interested colleagues in other centres we can send them information about the study – send us their details or pass on ours and ask them to contact us.

Finished the tool for a child or children?

If you have 'finished' a child and submitted, you may like to start again with a new child *OR* did you know you can continue using the ORICL tool to observe the same child? Let us know and we can set the child up in Round 2: You can start entering a fresh set of observations that will highlight the child's development and learning over time.

Already have a printable QR code for parent consent? If you've had it for a while it may be outdated: Look for the dinosaur in the code to confirm you have the current version!

The Member Only Resources tab

Have you ever had a look at what is available to you in the Member Only Resources? When logged in you will see a 'Resources' tab on the left – click on this to view or download:

- Information for educators and families
- User guides
- Instructional videos
- Item Reference Guides (printable ORICL questions)
- NQS Exceeding Themes resources.

Happy reading!

Re-allocating children to another educator

By now we hope that you've settled into the new year. If you have changed rooms, *or* if a child has moved to another room but has not yet turned three, we can reallocate children to a new or existing educator to continue using the tool for that child. Just let us know, and please reach out if you would like assistance with the Consent & Registration process for a new educator.

Response to ORICL survey and Certificate of Appreciation

When you have finished entering ratings and observations into the ORICL tool, don't forget to hit the 'SUBMIT' button on the final page of the tool. We will then send you a link to a quick survey where you can tell us about your experience using the ORICL tool: Please be honest as your feedback is critical for us to learn about what is working and what could be improved to refine the ORICL tool. When you have completed the survey, you will receive a Certificate of Appreciation that you can use for your professional portfolio - perfect for A&R and as evidence of your involvement and contribution to a large research project! *A little tip*: To hasten delivery of your certificate please ensure you go all the way to the end and click submit so that we receive the notification (even if you write N/A for some questions!).

Speaking of certificates…

We also have a Certificate of Participation for centres/FDC services. This is a certificate you can place on a noticeboard to advertise your involvement with the ORICL project to families and visitors (and of course as evidence of participation for A&R). Periodically we run a report, and certificates are sent based on educator's engagement with the tool (i.e., they had added a child or two and have begun adding ratings). If you've missed receiving your certificate, please contact Tracy.

The ORICL Project mailing list

Directors, if you have an educator who has left your centre or withdrawn from the project, please let us know so that we can remove them from our mailing list. We all know there's nothing worse than receiving unwanted emails in our busy lives!

Change of staff in the ORICL Support Team

It is with mixed emotions that we wish to inform you that Dr Jo Grimmond and Kath Byrne have left the team to pursue exciting new job opportunities that came their way. I'm sure you'll join the ORICL Team in wishing Jo and Kath all the best in their new roles.

To replace Jo, we welcome Dr Allison Cameron to the team. Allison has a wealth of knowledge and experience in early childhood and is enthusiastic about supporting you in the ORICL project.

To replace Kath, Anne-Lii has extended her role to work with Kath's centres in sunny Queensland.

Missed the December newsletter full of tips and tricks? It is still available on our website www.oricl.org in the 'News' tab or follow this link: News