Checklist: How to build a sense of belonging for *all* children

Every child deserves to feel they belong – use this checklist to create a safe and welcoming environment at your early childhood or OSHC service.

- Do you greet every child by name as they arrive?

- Does every child have their own locker and a place for their hat?

- Are children's names spelt correctly on displays, lists, lockers?

- If your service has pigeonholes for communications, does every family have one?

- Do you know the names of children's guardians?

- Do you know the names of other important people in each child's life? (siblings, other people who collect them)

- Do you know about every child's language and culture – not just the traditions of their culture, but the ones that are meaningful to their family?

- If you use a belonging tree, family photos or child sign-in station, is every child included?

- Does your program include images and resources that are culturally familiar for every child so they can feel connected?

- Does your setting include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives?

- Does your setting include positive representations of diverse cultures?

- Is every child's voice counted in your program?

- Is every child invited to share in the decision-making?

- Do you share information for families in languages that are accessible to them?

- Are your forms written in a way that is inclusive of diverse family situations?

- Do you talk to families about their parenting styles to gain more information about how you can partner together to achieve the best for the child?

- Do you ensure that your social and community gatherings happen at a range of times and days to suit a variety of family members?

- Does your service reflect knowledge and history of your local community?

- Can you name 50 things about every child?

TAKE ACTION
Which ONE action do you want to focus on? What could you do tomorrow? Write it in the box now!

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