



Real World
Learning

STEM Detectives

STEM ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



Real World Learning
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STEM Detectives Accreditation Framework

Introduction

The *STEM Detectives Accreditation Framework* has been created to support Early Childhood and OSHC Services to implement a whole of Service approach to embedding STEM in their daily practice, philosophy, policies and programs. The STEM Detectives Accreditation Framework provides guidance, support and professional development opportunities for Early Childhood, Out of School Hours Care and Primary School Educators to build confidence in their STEM learning and practice through play and inquiry-based learning.

The STEM Detectives Accreditation Framework builds on your strengths and helps you identify opportunities to further embed STEM across your service and with your community.

The STEM Detectives Accreditation Framework can be implemented across any service type:

- Long Day Care
- Kindergarten
- Family Day Care (individual educator or service)
- OSHC
- Cluster Managed Services

Why implement the STEM Detectives Accreditation Framework?

Benefits to Services:

- A flexible framework that can be adapted to reflect the specific needs of your service;
- Improve capacity and confidence of your early years, OSHC and/or Primary School educators in STEM learning and practice;
- Whole of Service approach that encourages reflective practice, continuous improvement and staff and community engagement;
- Clear links to Early Years Learning Framework and My Time Our Place Framework;
- Access to practical and useful tools that make embedding STEM across your service easy;
- Minimal additional documentation (we use the evidence you already have – QIP, Programming, Project Books, Photos, Staff Meeting / Committee Meeting Minutes; Newsletters, etc).
- Guidance for families to support their young children in developing foundational STEM thinking skills in developmentally appropriate ways;
- Encourage a love of STEM in young children through developmentally appropriate practice, inquiry-based learning and PLAY;

What's Involved?

The STEM Detectives Accreditation has 3 levels:

Level 1 – Building

Services are committed to **building knowledge, skills, capacity and confidence of educators** in STEM learning and practice through professional learning opportunities, networking, peer support and coaching.

Level 2 – Experimenting

Level 2 STEM Detectives Accredited Services are **embedding STEM learning and practice** into daily routines, programs and pedagogy. STEM is a familiar concept to all staff and is part of daily routines and programs across the service. Educators and children confidently use the language of STEM as they explore STEM concepts through play and inquiry-based learning. Children are encouraged to develop their STEM thinking skills. Communication with families includes STEM as a foundational skill for young children to develop during the early years (0 – 8 years).

Level 3 - Collaborating

Level 3 STEM Detectives Accredited education and care services **demonstrate best practice and share their knowledge, expertise and experiences** with other services, their families and broader community.

Each level builds on the last... Services are encouraged to work through the levels at their own pace. A Service may apply for any level, so if you're doing a great job and would like recognition of the great work you already do in embedding STEM, you can apply for Level 3 straight away, or you can make your way through the levels if you are more comfortable taking small steps.

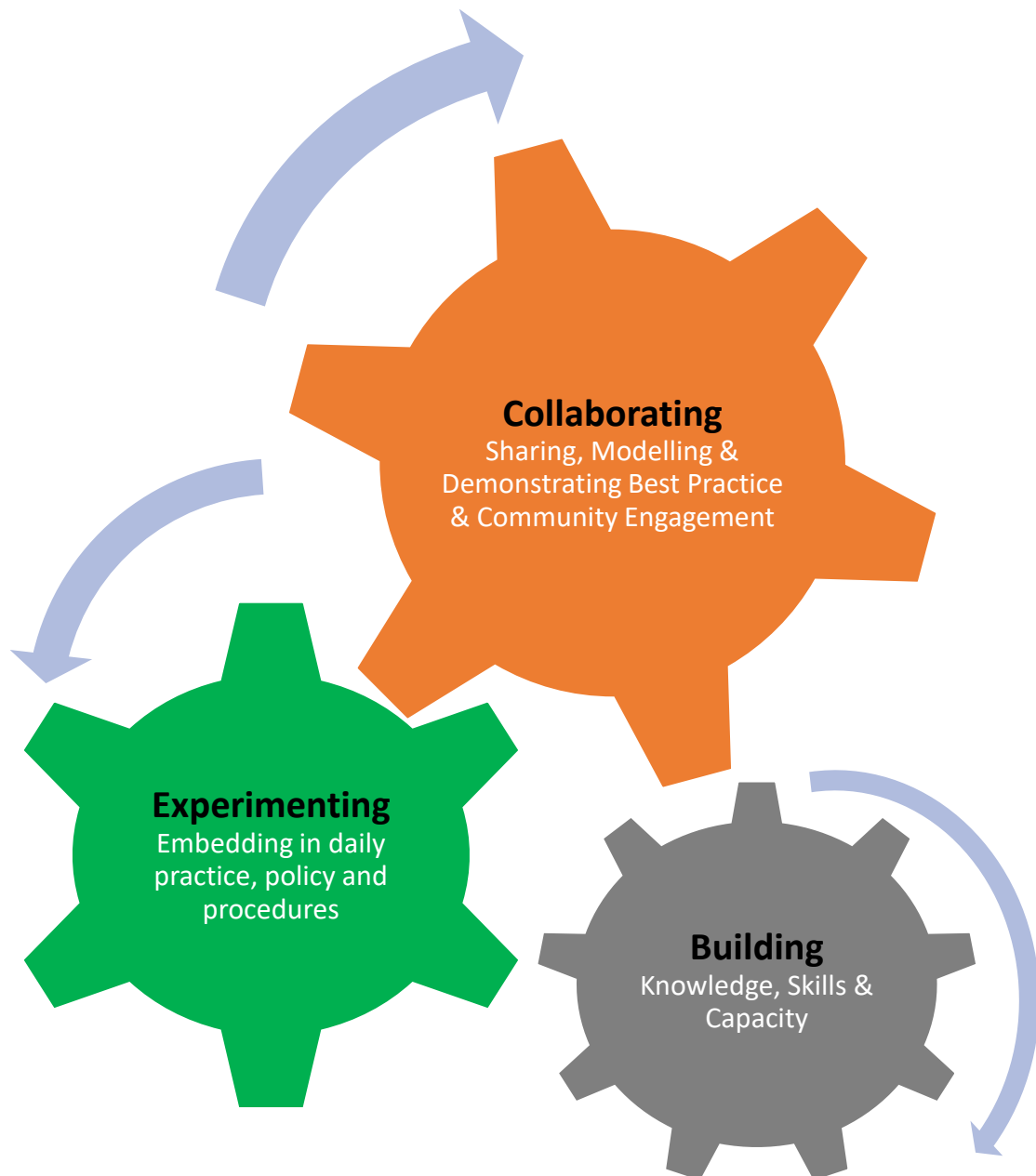
The Criteria for each Level are outlined below.

We utilise your existing documentation as evidence, so there is no need to complete lengthy application forms. We keep the paperwork to a minimum, just send us copies or photos of relevant aspects of your program, project documentation, portfolios, staff meeting minutes, policies, philosophy, event fliers, newsletters / blogs, displays, etc. If you're applying for Level 3 we may arrange a time to visit your service.

Your Accreditation will be valid for a period of **2 years**, then you will need to apply to renew your current accreditation or move to the next level.



STEM Detectives Accreditation Framework



Accreditation Description and Assessment Criteria

Level 1 – Building

Building knowledge, skills, capacity and confidence of educators in STEM learning and practice through professional learning opportunities, networking, peer support and coaching.

Accreditation Requirements:

- Educators have attended as per the requirements outlined below of various service types:
 - STEM Detectives - 6 hrs Professional Development

- At least 2 educators per Child Care Centre / OSHC / Kindergarten Service (stand-alone)
- 1 Educator individual FDC provider
- 25% of educators and 75% co-ordinators / mentors /educational leaders per FDC Service
- At least 2 educators per centre and 2 educational support / mentors per Cluster Managed LDC / OSHC or Kindergarten Service

- Service has documented their commitment to participating in STEM Detectives Accreditation by completing a Memorandum of Understanding / Statement of Commitment signed by Service Managers / Committee of Management representatives and Educational Leaders

Level 2 – Experimenting

Embedding STEM Thinking and doing into daily practice, programs and philosophy. STEM is a familiar concept to all staff and is part of daily routines and programs across the service. Educators and children confidently use the language of STEM as they explore STEM concepts through play and inquiry-based learning. Children are encouraged to develop their STEM thinking skills. Communication with families includes STEM as a foundational skill for young children to develop during the early years (0 – 8 years).

Accreditation Requirements:

- In the past 12 months educators have attended as per the requirements outlined below of various service types:
 - STEM Detectives – 6 hrs Professional Development

- At least 4 educators per Child Care Centre / OSHC / Kindergarten Service (stand-alone)
- 1 Educator individual FDC provider
- 50% of educators and 85% co-ordinators / mentors /educational leaders per FDC Service
- At least 4 educators per centre and 4 educational support / mentors per Cluster Managed LDC / OSHC or Kindergarten Service

- Service has documented their commitment to participating in STEM Detectives Accreditation by completing a Memorandum of Understanding / Statement of Commitment signed by Service Managers / Committee of Management representatives and Educational Leaders
- STEM is evident in documentation including Programming, QIP, Policies, Philosophy, Portfolios and Group Learning.
- STEM is regularly discussed at Staff meetings
- Educators are supported to build knowledge and understanding of STEM through further STEM Detectives Professional Development, networks and peer support.
- Educators and children regularly use STEM language and concepts in their play and learning.
- STEM Thinking and Learning is communicated to families through documentation, newsletters, displays, etc.

Level 3 – Collaborating

STEM is a way of life and how we come to understand the world around us and how things work. STEM is everywhere and for everyone. Level 3 STEM Detectives Accredited education and care services demonstrate best practice and share their knowledge, expertise and experiences with other services, their families and broader community.

Accreditation Requirements:

- In the past 12 months educators have attended as per the requirements outlined below of various service types:
 - STEM Detectives – 6 hrs Professional Development

- At least 6 educators per Child Care Centre / OSHC / Kindergarten Service (stand-alone)
- 1 Educator individual FDC provider
- 75% of educators and 100% co-ordinators / mentors /educational leaders per FDC Service
- At least **6 educators per centre and 6 educational support** / mentors per Cluster Managed LDC / OSHC or Kindergarten Service

- Service has documented their commitment to participating in STEM Detectives Accreditation by completing a Memorandum of Understanding / Statement of Commitment signed by Service Managers / Committee of Management representatives and Educational Leaders
- STEM is evident in documentation including Programming, QIP, Policies, Philosophy, Portfolios and Group Learning.
- STEM is regularly discussed at Staff meetings
- Educators are supported to build knowledge and understanding of STEM through STEM Detectives Professional Development, networks and peer support.
- Educators and children regularly use STEM language and concepts in their play and learning.
- STEM Thinking and Learning is communicated to families through documentation, newsletters, displays, etc.
- The Service regularly engages families in STEM Thinking and doing through events, information, research, documentation, discussion, etc.

- The Service regularly engages the broader community in their STEM Thinking and doing through projects, inquiry-based learning, activities, excursions, incursions, volunteers, partnerships, etc.
- The service and educators regularly provide peer support to other services.

Accredited Services Receive:

Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 Certificate • Electronic Logo to use on your website, social media or letterhead • Your Service listed on the Real World Learning Website
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 Framed Certificate • Electronic Logo to use on your website, social media or letterhead • Your Service listed on the Real World Learning Website • Sticker suitable for indoor or outdoor use
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 Framed Certificate • Electronic Logo to use on your website, social media or letterhead • Your Service listed on the Real World Learning Website • Sticker suitable for indoor or outdoor use • Plaque / Sign with Service Name

Costs

STEM Detectives **Professional Development**

- 6 hr Session \$2453 incl GST + Travel (for a Service up to 35 participants)
- OR 2 x 3 hr Sessions at \$1353 incl GST + Travel per session

STEM Detectives Accreditation **Application Fee** (2 years accreditation):

Service Type	Description	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Long Day Care / Kindergarten / Preschool / OSHC	Single Centre	\$100	\$150	\$250
FDC Educator	Individual	\$100	\$120	\$220

Please contact us for reduced fees if you are interested in Accreditation for multiple services.