



# WAVE 1

## Centre-Based Carer

### Infant

This form is for the person who is the **main carer** of the child named below, who is taking part in the **Growing Up in Australia** study. That is, someone who works in this child's group regularly.

Please fill out this form with regard to yourself and the child named below, thinking about the child while he/she is in your group.

CARER'S NAME:

STUDY CHILD'S NAME:

**All the information you provide will remain totally confidential.** This means that it will never be used in any way that identifies individuals, children or families.

Participation in this study is voluntary. If you have any questions or want more information about the study you can contact **I-view** on **1800 005 508** and mention the **Growing Up in Australia** study.

**PLEASE DO NOT FOLD OR BEND THIS FORM**

**Mail return to:**

**Growing Up in Australia**  
**Reply Paid 1215**  
**EASTERN MC VIC 3110**

Instructions:

Please MARK LIKE THIS ONLY:

- ❖ Use a blue/black pen or dark pencil, preferably 2B. Do not use red or felt tip pen.
- ❖ If you make a mistake in pencil, please erase fully. If in pen, mark a cross clearly through the incorrect answer like this:  ✕
- ❖ Do not fold or bend this questionnaire.



## SECTION A: Service Characteristics

The following questions are about the centre or program in which you work.

**A1** In what sector of early childhood care or education is your program based? Please read the definitions of each option and mark **one** option that **best** describes your program.

apc06t3

- 1 Long day care program**  
*A centre-based child care program: The centre is open for at least 8 hours a day, five days a week and across at least 48 weeks of the year.*
- 2 Long day care program in a school setting**  
*A centre-based child care program available only during the school terms for up to 8 hours a day, five days a week.*
- 3 Occasional care program**  
*A centre-based program that provides child care on a short-term basis. Children, within the age range of 0 to 5 years, may attend half-days or full-days for a limited number of sessions per week.*
- 4 Multi-purpose centre**  
*A centre-based program that provides long day care in addition to other child and family services, such as early intervention, family day care, family support. Include Multi-functional Aboriginal Children's Services in this option.*

6

**Other** (please describe)

  


**A2** Under what organisational basis does your program operate? Please mark **one** option that **best** describes the administrative / organisational basis under which your program operates.

apc37t3a

- 1 Government school: *State or territory government*
- 2 Independent school: *Non-denominational*
- 3 Independent school: *Catholic education*
- 4 Independent school: *Sponsored by a religious faith other than Catholic*
- 5 Non-profit organisation: *Community-based*
- 6 Non-profit organisation: *Sponsored by a religious faith*
- 7 For-profit organisation: *Private or franchised centre, commercial child care chain*
- 8 Local government
- 9 Higher education institution: *University or TAFE college*
- 10 Employer-sponsored child care: *Private company*
- 11 Other (please describe)

  


**A3** Is your program located in a Long Day Care centre?

- 1 Yes → **Go to A4**
- 2 No → **Go to Section B**

aid22

**A4** Is your centre registered with the *National Childcare Accreditation Council*?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

apc38

## SECTION B: Group Characteristics

Please complete these questions for the group where the study child (named on the front cover) spends most of his/her time.

**B1** On average, how many children are in the group on any day that the study child attends?

apc14t1a

- 1-5  
 6-10  
 11-20  
 21-30  
 31 or more  
 Don't know

**B2** On average, what is the general **age range** in months within the group?

apc23a

From    months

apc23b

to    months

**B3** On average, how many adults, **in paid positions**, are typically in your group at a time when most children have arrived?

apc14t2a

- 1  
 2  
 3  
 4  
 5 or more  
 Don't know

**B4** On average, how many **qualified** staff are typically in your group when most children enrolled in the program have arrived, that is, staff with certificates, diplomas or above?

apc14t2c

- 1  
 2  
 3  
 4  
 5 or more  
 Don't know

**B5** On average, how many children in this group are from a non-English speaking family background?  
**NOT INCLUDING THE STUDY CHILD**

apc31a1

- 1-5  
 6-10  
 11-20  
 21-30  
 31 or more  
 Don't know

**B6** On average, how many children in this group are from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background?  
**NOT INCLUDING THE STUDY CHILD**

apc31b1

- 1-5  
 6-10  
 11-20  
 21-30  
 31 or more  
 Don't know

**B7** On average, how many children in this group have had a diagnosed disability? (eg intellectual, sensory, physical, autistic spectrum disorder, developmental delay)  
**NOT INCLUDING THE STUDY CHILD**

apc31c1

- 1-5  
 6-10  
 11-20  
 21-30  
 31 or more  
 Don't know

## SECTION C: Your Background

Now there are some questions about your own background, experience, training and work environment.

**C1** Are you male or female?

- 1  Male  
2  Female

apc24

**C2** What was your age last birthday?

Write number  
  years

apc08t1  
apc08t2

**C3** What is your current work status?

- 1  Paid, full-time (35 hours or more per week)  
 2  Paid, part-time (less than 35 hours per week)  
 3  Unpaid, full-time  
 4  Unpaid, part-time  
 5  Both paid and unpaid (35 hours or more)  
 6  Both paid and unpaid (less than 35 hours)  
 7  Other

apc25a

**C4** Counting this year, for how many years have you worked for 10 hours or more per week in child care settings, early education programs or school settings (include paid and unpaid positions)?

Write number  
 Number of years

apc32a1

**C5** Counting this year, how many years have you worked in this centre / program, even if your position has changed? (If just started this year, write 01)

Write number  
 Number of years

apc32b2a

**C6** What is the highest educational qualification you have completed?

- 1  Masters or Doctoral Degree  
 2  Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate (completed after a Bachelor Degree)  
 3  Bachelor Degree (including Honours)  
 4  Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree  
 5  Diploma or Associate Diploma  
 6  Certificate  
 7  Secondary school only  
 8  Other (please specify)

apc26b1

- 0  None of the above

**C7** If you have completed a post-secondary qualification, what is the field of study of your highest level qualification?

- 0  None or not completed  
 1  Early Childhood Education  
 2  Child Care  
 3  Primary / Secondary Education  
 4  Nursing  
 5  Special Education  
 6  Another field

apc26c1

**C8** Are you currently studying for a qualification that will expand your skills and knowledge in child care or early childhood education?

- 1  Yes  
 2  No → Go to C10

apc34a

**C9** What is the field of study of your current course?

- 1  Early Childhood Education  
 2  Child Care  
 3  Primary / Secondary Education  
 4  Nursing  
 5  Special Education  
 6  Another field

apc34b

**C10** In the last 12 months, what is your best estimate of your hours spent on professional development activities (eg in-service programs, child-free days, seminars, workshops, conferences and short courses)?

apc35

Base your estimate on hours of attendance with one day of participation as equal to 6 hours.

Fill in ONE oval only

- 0  Nil
- 1  1 to 6 hours (1 day)
- 2  7 to 12 hours (2 days)
- 3  13 to 18 hours (3 days)
- 4  19 to 24 hours (4 days)
- 5  25 hours or more (5 or more days)

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with these statements, as they apply to your centre.

C11-C16: ACBCWENV

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	
<b>C11</b> Staff can rely on colleagues for support and assistance when needed	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>	apc36a2
<b>C12</b> Staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>	apc36b2
<b>C13</b> Staff are able to contribute to decision-making about policies and practices in the centre	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>	apc36c2
<b>C14</b> Staff go about their work with enthusiasm	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>	apc36d2
<b>C15</b> My personal philosophy and goals are in agreement with those of the centre	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>	apc36e2
<b>C16</b> The centre environment provides a positive working environment for staff	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>	apc36f1

## SECTION D: Program and Environment

How much of your usual daily work with the children is described by the following?

		NOT AT ALL	SOMEWHAT	QUITE A LOT	VERY MUCH		
D1-D9: ATQUALA							
D1	Sitting and playing with children	D1, 2, 7, 9: ATPLAY				<input checked="" type="radio"/>	atp02a1
D2	Singing, telling stories, reading books	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		atp02a2
D3	Managing problem behaviour	D3: ATNEG				<input type="radio"/>	atp02b1
D4	Giving individual attention in routine care ( <i>feeding, toileting, dressing, putting to sleep, etc.</i> )	D4, 6: ATROUT				<input type="radio"/>	atp02c1
D5	Organising space, equipment or toys, food and drink	D5, 8: ATNDIA				<input type="radio"/>	atp02d1
D6	Teaching good health practices ( <i>hand washing, healthy eating, sun protection, etc.</i> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		atp02c2
D7	Active outdoor play ( <i>running, ball play, etc.</i> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		atp02a3
D8	Watching or supervising children's play	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		atp02d2
D9	Taking part in children's pretend play	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		atp02a4

The next questions ask about the space, facilities and equipment in your centre-based child care service.

D10 – 14, 16-18: ACBCEQ

D10 How often is open space provided for active infant-toddler play?

- Not at all
- Occasionally
- For short periods each day
- For about half the day
- All day

atp05a1g

D10, D11, D16 – D18: ACBCLRNE

D11 How often are soft areas, like cushions or cosy corners provided for quiet play?

- Not at all
- Occasionally
- For short periods each day
- For about half the day
- All day

atp05a1h

D12, D13, D14: ACBCLITE

D12 How often are books and materials to stimulate **language development** (*including cloth and hardpage books, music tapes, puppets and picture cards*) available to the children?

- Not at all
- Occasionally
- For short periods each day
- For about half the day
- All day

atp05b1a

**D13** How many books and materials are available to stimulate language development?

atp05b1b

- 1  Less than 1 per child in the group
- 2  At least 1 per child in the group
- 3  2 or more per child in the group

**D14** On average, how many minutes per day does someone read books or sing songs to the children?

atp05b1c

Write number

--	--	--

minutes

**D15** How often do the children watch television or videos?

atp04

- 1  Less than 1 hour per day
- 2  1 up to 2 hours per day
- 3  2 or more hours per day
- 4  A few times a week
- 5  A few times a month
- 6  Less often
- 7  Never

**D16** How often are toys and equipment involving fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination, such as posting boxes, nesting cups, pop-up toys or puzzles, available to the children?

atp05a1d

- 0  Not at all
- 1  Occasionally
- 2  For short periods each day
- 3  For about half the day
- 4  All day

**D17** How often are art activities and creative materials, such as crayons, drawing, play dough, paint, cutting and pasting, available to the children?

atp05a1e

- 0  Not at all
- 1  Occasionally
- 2  For short periods each day
- 3  For about half the day
- 4  All day

**D18** How often are pretend play items such as dolls, prams, cars, home play and dress-ups like hats or handbags, available to the children?

atp05a1f

- 0  Not at all
- 1  Occasionally
- 2  For short periods each day
- 3  For about half the day
- 4  All day

## SECTION E: Child and Family Focus

Now thinking specifically about the study child and his/her family.

**E1** How long has the study child been in your centre / service?

apc11t

Number of months Write number

**E2** Has the study child received any additional services that are specifically available or provided through your centre to support his/her learning (eg speech therapy, physiotherapy, SUPS support worker)?

apc30

- 1  Yes
  - 2  No
  - 2  Not sure
- **Go to E4**

**E3** If YES, please specify the nature of the extra services this child has received since being in your group.


**E4** During the time that this child has been in your care, how often has a parent of this child had an informal discussion with you about him/her (eg at pick-up or drop-off times)?

ahe01t2

- 1  Every day
- 2  A few times a week
- 3  A few times a month
- 4  Never
- 1  Opportunities not available

## SECTION F: Child's Abilities and Behaviour

**F1** Compared with other children, how old would you say the study child **now** acts?

agd02a

1  His/her own age **OR**

Write number

2  months agd02b

**F2** Do you have any concerns about this child's learning, development or behaviour?

agd01b

1  Yes

2  No

3  Don't know

→ **Go to F4**

**F3** If YES, what are your concerns?

Fill in ALL ovals that apply

- 1  General developmental delay
- 2  How child talks and makes speech sounds
- 3  How child understands what you say
- 4  How child uses his/her hands and fingers to do things
- 5  How child uses his/her arms and legs
- 6  Hearing problems
- 7  Vision problems
- 8  Other physical concerns
- 9  How child responds socially to people
- 10  Other behaviour difficulties
- 11  Other concerns

agd01b1

to

agd01b11

**F4** Compared with other children, do you think this child is ...?

ase02

1  Much easier to get on with than average

2  Easier to get on with than average

3  About average

4  More difficult to get on with than average

5  Much more difficult to get on with than average

F5 – F17: ATQREL

The following statements are about your relationship with this child. For each statement, please mark **one** oval for your response.

		DEFINITELY DOES NOT APPLY	NOT REALLY	NEUTRAL/ NOT SURE	APPLIES SOMEWHAT	DEFINITELY APPLIES	
F5	I share an affectionate, warm relationship with this child	1	2	3	4	5	F5, F7, F8, F17: ATWARMS atp01a1
F6	This child and I always seem to be struggling with each other (i.e. having a hard time getting along)	1	2	3	4	5	F6, F11, F13-F16: ATCONF atp01b1
F7	If upset, this child will seek comfort from me	1	2	3	4	5	atp01a2
F8	This child is uncomfortable with physical affection or touch from me	1	2	3	4	5	atp01a3
F9	This child reacts strongly to separation from me				4	5	F9-F10: ATDEP atp01c1
F10	This child is overly dependent on me	1	2	3	4	5	atp01c2
F11	This child easily becomes angry at me	1	2	3	4	5	atp01b2
F12	It is easy to be in tune with what this child is feeling				4	5	F12: ATOCOM atp01d1
F13	Dealing with this child drains my energy	1	2	3	4	5	atp01b3
F14	When this child is in a bad mood, I know we're in for a long and difficult day	1	2	3	4	5	atp01b4
F15	Despite my best efforts, I'm uncomfortable with how this child and I get along	1	2	3	4	5	atp01b5
F16	This child whines or cries when he/she wants something from me	1	2	3	4	5	atp01b6
F17	My interactions with this child make me feel effective and confident	1	2	3	4	5	atp01a4

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## CONSENT

You are being asked to take part in **Growing Up in Australia**, a study being run by the Australian Institute of Family Studies on behalf of the Australian Government. The Australian Institute of Family Studies have contracted research consultants to collect the data on their behalf.

All the information collected will be kept **strictly confidential** (except where it is required to be reported by law and/or there is a risk of harm to yourself or others). To ensure that your privacy is maintained, only combined results from the study as a whole will be discussed and published. No individual information will be released to any person or department except at your written request and on your authorisation.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time or choose not to take part. Please sign below if you agree to take part.

Z1  I agree to participate in this study (please mark here).

Z2 Carer's  
Signature:

Z3 Date:

 /  / 

Z4 Name of  
Centre:

Z5 Address  
of Centre:

Z6 Postcode:

Please complete the information below if you have filled in this survey on behalf of the child's carer.

Z7 Your name:

Z8 Relationship to  
child's carer:

Z9 Reason for filling in this form on behalf of the child's carer:

  


*Thank you for taking the time to fill in this form.*

**Mail return to:  
Growing Up in Australia  
Reply Paid 1215  
EASTERN MC VIC 3110**

Z10 Do you have any other final comments about yourself or the study child?


If you have any questions or want more information about the study  
you can contact *I-view* on freecall 1800 005 508  
and mention the **Growing Up in Australia** study.



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