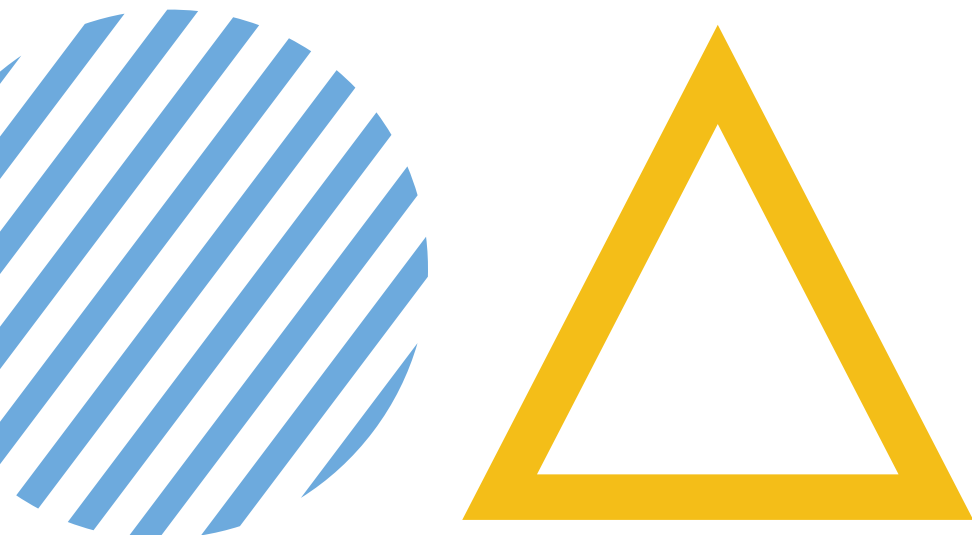


The School Readiness Funding Menu
**Choosing the Peep Learning
Together Program (PeepLTP)**



Supporting parents to support their children's learning, development and school readiness

A child's parents are their first and most consistent teachers.

A child who attends a kindergarten program 15-30 hours a week spends around 60 waking hours a week with their parents, presenting countless learning opportunities in the home learning environment. A kindergarten can further enhance the impact it has on its students by empowering the parents to stimulate their children's learning and development and thus contribute to their school-readiness.

Research shows that there is a difference in expert and public understanding of effective parenting. For example, in addition to being nurturing, effective parenting requires specific skills and practices, and the goal of parenting should extend beyond the focus of a child's happiness, to building their capacity (Volmert et al. 2016). Recognising the distinctions between your own and the parents' perceptions, positions you well to support your students' parents to support their child. Experts recognise that parenting does not necessarily come naturally, and the skills parents need to support their children's development can be learnt (Volmert et al. 2016); the realisation of this can empower parents and benefit their children. Research also demonstrates that parenting support is more engaging when it is approached with a focus on child development rather than effective parenting (L'hote et al. 2018).



The home learning environment

A child's development benefits greatly from a parent supporting their thinking and learning during everyday activities. The quality of the home learning environment is more important for a child's cognitive and social development than their parent's occupation, education or income (Sylva et al. 2004), and can thus reduce inequities (Siraj-Blatchford, Mayo & Melhuish 2011). In fact, the frequency of home activities at age 2-3 years, is significantly related to their numeracy and literacy skills in grade 3 (Yu & Daraganova 2014). Recent research also suggests that children who are provided a more stimulating and varied home learning environment prior to school entry are more likely to also be provided a stimulating home learning environment during both primary and secondary school (Toth et al. 2020).

Supporting school readiness by empowering parent and promoting the home learning environment

Parents have the capacity, but not always the confidence or know-how to utilise everyday moments to help their child learn and could therefore be considered an 'untapped resource' for their child's development. Fortunately, there is an evidence-based, well-researched program for parents, to build the know-how and confidence to support their child's learning and development at home by doing what they are already doing. It is the peep learning together program (PeepLTP).



Color
BLACK FABRIC
brown chocolate
pink flower

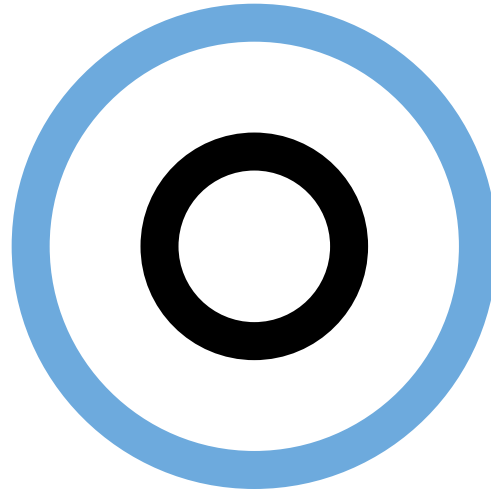
bathtub
slippers
rubber duck
teddy bear
potty
storkbook
rainbow



The Peep Learning Together Program

PeepLTP is an evidence-based adult learning program with a curriculum that supports parents to understand more about how children learn - and to do more of the things at home that make a difference to children's outcomes. Intended for parents of children from birth to school-age, it can be used to communicate concepts and ideas with parents about how to enhance the home learning environment, the parent-child relationship and children's literacy and self-esteem. It can be used with parents in a variety of settings including one on one, parent groups, and playgroups.

The program empowers parents to make the most of everyday learning opportunities including singing, sharing books and stories and talking about a wide range of ideas, thoughts and feelings. PeepLTP is a curriculum for parents about the home learning environment, child development and the utilisation of teaching moments in everyday activities.



Program curriculum

PeepLTP can assist educators to empower parents to enhance their child's development. Utilising parents' existing strengths and practices, the program builds on what parents are already doing to support their children's learning.

The flexibility of the program allows for topics to be used in any combination and order to create a bespoke Learning Together Program and can be utilised in many ways, including succinct information snapshots for parents, and delivered over any period of time.

Each of the 74 PeepLTP topics fall under one of the five strands of development shown in the table below.

Personal, Social and Emotional development	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Early literacy	Earth maths	Health and Physical development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal and social development - Learning - Play - Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early communication - Speaking and listening - Communication and language anywhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Books and beyond - Reading - Writing - Early literacy everywhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fun with maths - Numbers and counting - Maths everywhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Healthy living - Physical development - Sensory development

PeepLTP materials

As noted earlier, PeepLTP materials assist educators to support parents to enhance their child’s development by sharing information that builds on their existing strengths and practices and was designed for flexible delivery based on the needs of parents and children, building on what parents are already doing to support their children’s learning.

Materials for each PeepLTP topic includes a topic card about sharing the topic aim with parents as well as a topic handout, things to do at home handout, and tip sheet, all for parents. These different print resources to share with parents provide flexibility with the additional benefit of the preferences of the educator, and needs of the audience (levels of literacy, motivation

and interests) being considered. Topics that are considered relevant across the board could be selected and materials provided to all families at regular intervals with newsletters etc., to engage parents in their children’s learning and development journey. The materials can also be utilised to address an area-specific families would benefit from, to complement a one-on-one discussion. For PeepLTP delivery within a group setting, the materials include session plans and suggestions for activities including stories and songs relating to the topic.

Educators also gain access to general support and resources on the People website, which includes adaptable posters, leaflets and certificates, etc.

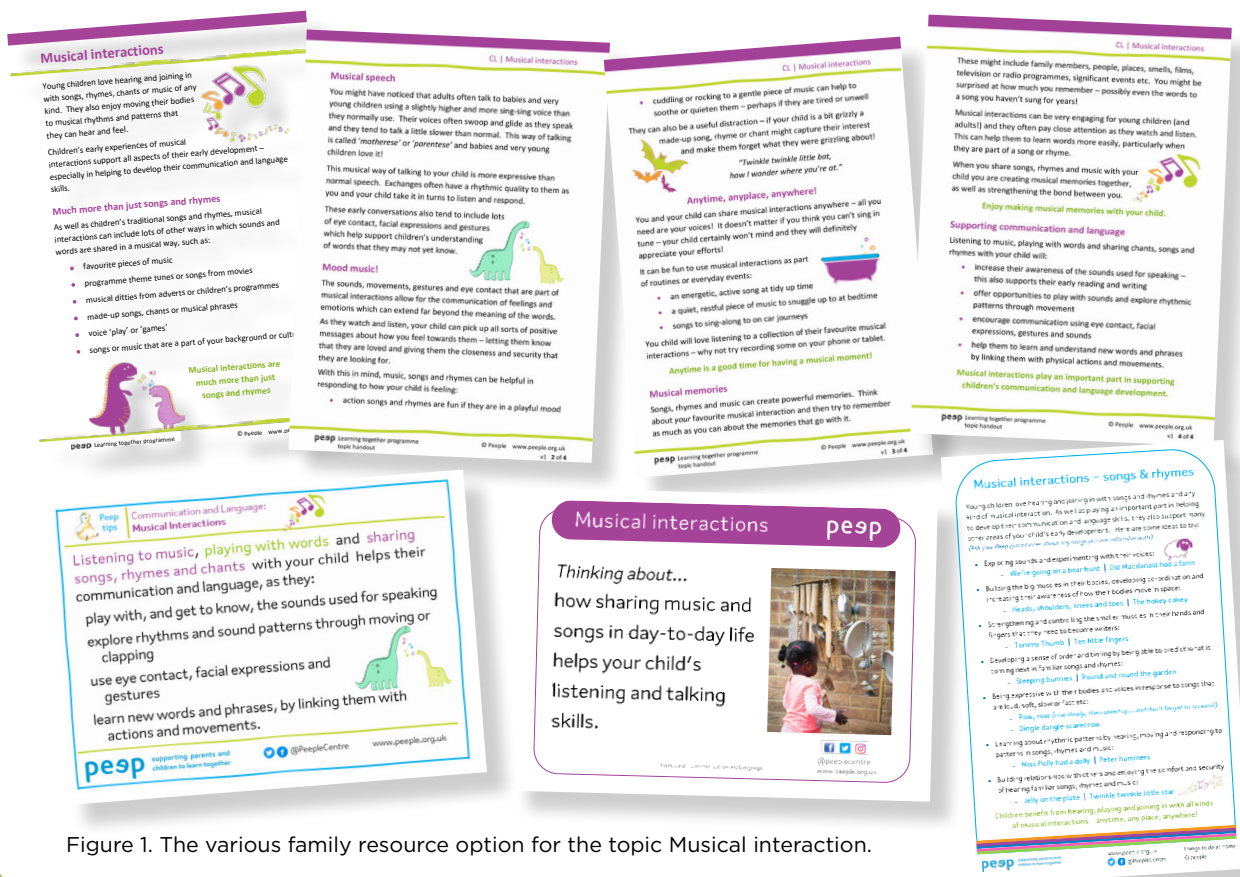


Figure 1. The various family resource option for the topic Musical interaction.



Why invest your School Readiness Funding in PeepLTP?

PeepLTP is an approved School Readiness Funding (SRF) menu program; the five developmental strands of PeepLTP align with both the five AEDC domains and the five VEYLD outcomes. See Figure 2.

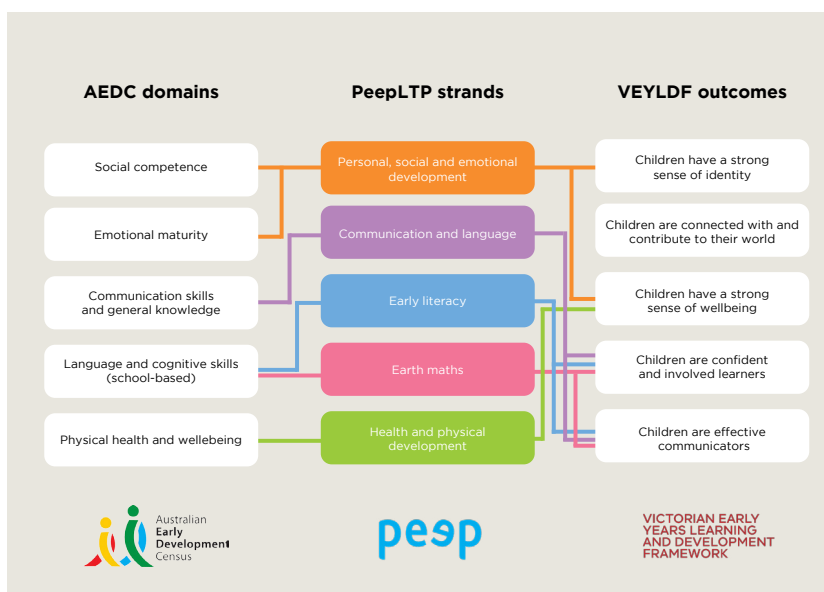


Figure 2. Alignment of peepLTP with the AEDC and VEYLD

The SRF team have identified that PeepLTP addresses the priority areas Wellbeing (social and emotional) and Communication, and are identified in the VEYLDF outcomes and sub-outcomes for children, and AEDC domains and subdomains that PeepLTP addresses. (See Figures 3 and 4).

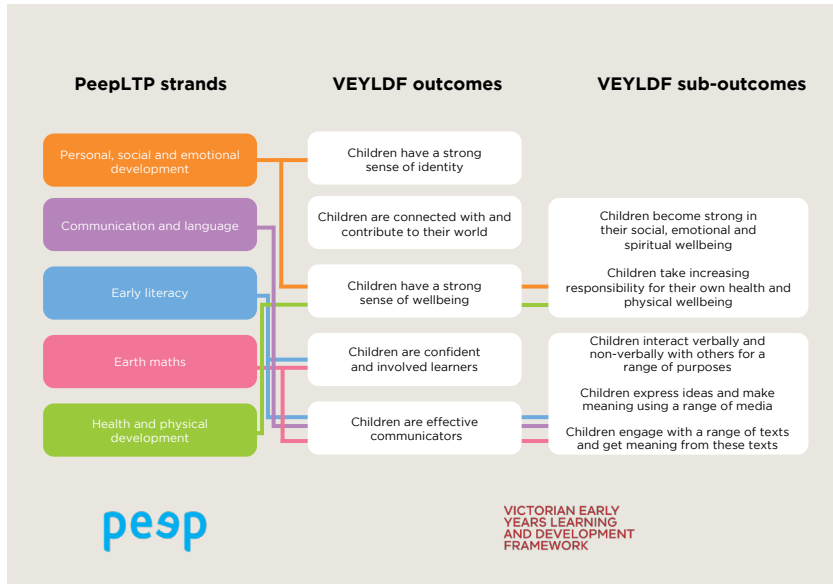


Figure 3. VEYLDF outcomes and sub-outcomes that peepLTP addresses

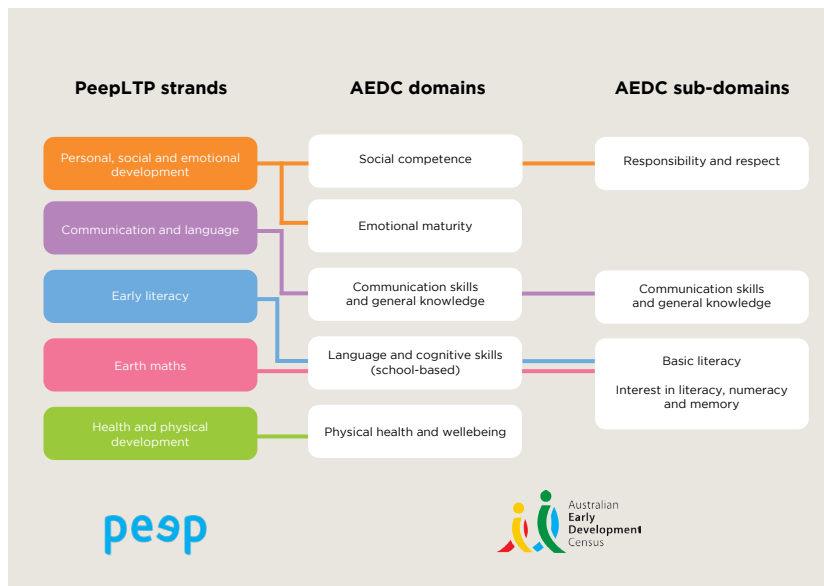


Figure 4. AEDC sub-domains that peepLTP addresses

The SRF team also recognised the following practice principles common to PeepLTP and VEYLDF:

- Reflective practice
- Partnerships with families
- High expectations for every child
- Equity and diversity
- Respectful relationships and responsive engagement
- Integrated teaching and learning approaches





Training

In 2021, the two-day *Learning Together Program* training will be offered online, face to face and in a blended format; this will depend on jurisdictional restrictions due to Covid-19.

The course will cover the why, what and how of delivering the programme and will support kindergarten teachers to:

- welcome and prepare parents and children for the transition from home to the kindergarten setting, introducing them to the activities and routines of this setting (linked to relevant early years frameworks, such as the EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage)
- share ideas from the Peep Learning Together programme, about how parents can support their child's play and learning at home
- improve parents' confidence and ability to support and value their child's learning and development - valuing and building on what parents already do
- provide the opportunity to meet other families, and to raise and discuss common concerns - reducing the anxiety experienced by some families
- enable parents, children and staff to get to know each other:
- help children to settle in more quickly
- provide the opportunity for staff to identify, and informally discuss with parents, any additional needs or potential referrals to other services
- improve two-way support between parents and staff
- increase staff skills and understanding of the value of parental involvement

Importantly, training will introduce you to the log-in Members Area and the extensive range of session plans and resources which you are welcome to use or adapt.

Implementation support

Our program staff are available to provide continued support as you gain confidence and knowledge in working with PeepLTP and students' parents. You are welcome to connect with us by phone, email or online video to ask questions and discuss your practice. This can be useful soon after training and help to quality assure programme delivery. Our staff can also assist enhanced use of the diverse and extensive practitioner materials and parent resources available through the Members Log-in or in hard copy.

During 2021, the PeepLTP program staff will be designing and developing a quarterly newsletter for kindergarten teachers to share updates, practice examples and innovation as well as stories from the field.

Communities of practice

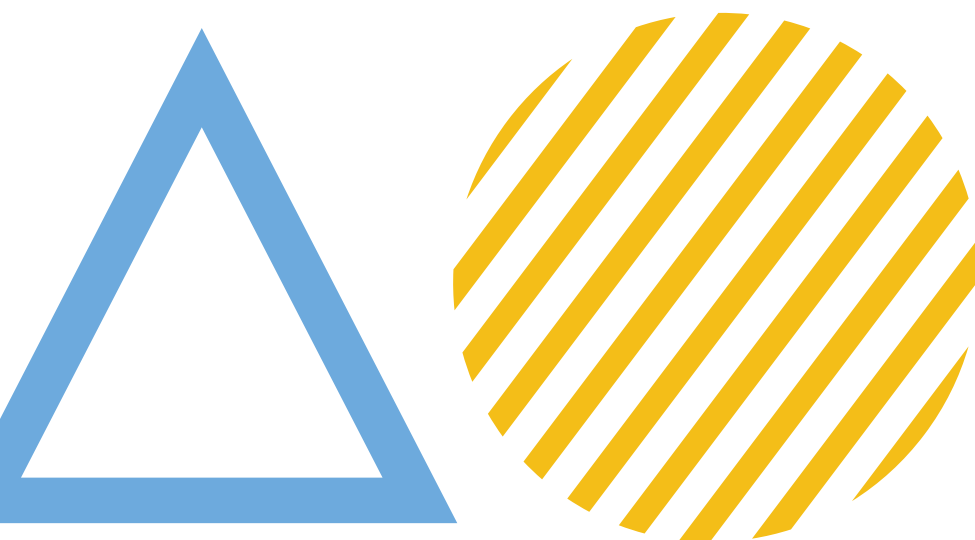
Our PeepLTP team will be establishing Communities of Practice during 2021. This will provide kindergarten teachers who have undertaken PeepLTP training to network with other PeepLTP practitioners and to create a collegial and positive professional learning environment.

Enquiries

We welcome your enquiry about PeepLTP and why you should invest your school readiness funding with this program. We can meet you via online video to give you an overview and to discuss your questions, such as how Peep programmes can:

- enhance secure attachment, early learning, transitions and school readiness
- build parenting capacity and confidence to strengthen the home learning environment, and,
- be used flexibly in any targeted and/or universal provision

For further information about the PeepLTP program or training please contact: Deborah Njegac at dnjegac@playgroup.org.au or **1800 171 882 (ext 147)**



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L'hote, E., Kendall-Taylor, N., O'neil, M., Busso, D., Volmert, D., & Nichols, J. (2018). Talking about the science of parenting. (August).

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