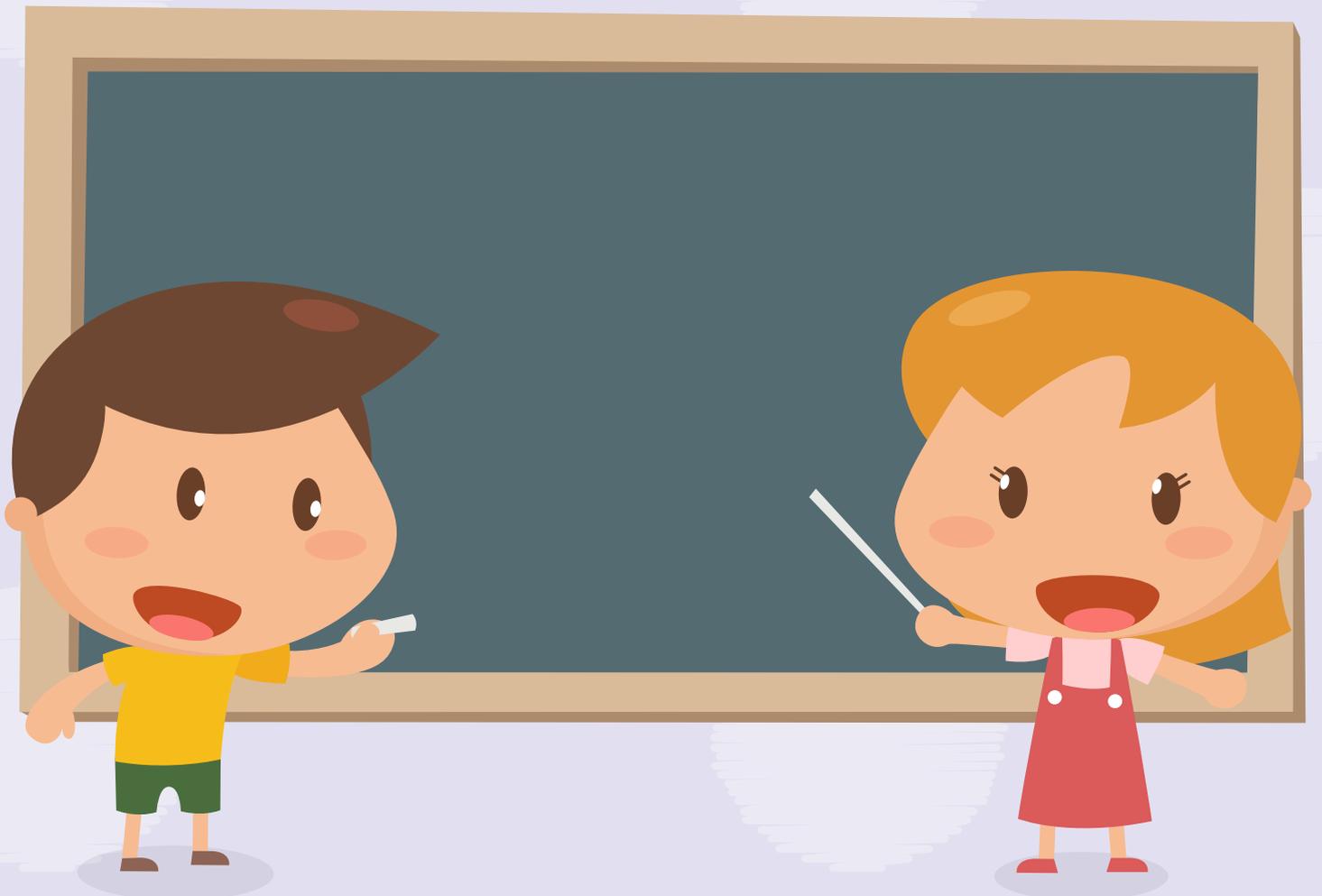


# CHILDREN'S LEARNING



# BEING, BECOMING, BELONGING

## Being

It is important to recognise the significance of the here and now in children's lives, that childhood is a perfect time to be present and to begin knowing themselves and make sense of the world around them. During this time, children ought to be engaging with others, building relationships, experiencing life's joys and challenges and the overall complexities that come with everyday life.

Early development is not just about preparing them for the future, their being in the here and now also matters.

## Becoming

Childhood is also a time for transformation and becoming. This change process can be significant and occur quickly, definitely not something to be missed. Children start to take in a lot more and emphasis is put on their participation and learning to actively engage in their surroundings. Children are shaped by many different situations and events that occur around them, and their identities, understandings, knowledge, relationships and capabilities change as they start to learn, grow and respond to various circumstances.

## Belonging

The experience of belonging is integral to human existence – it is something everyone longs for to some extent – to know where and with whom you belong. Throughout life relationships are crucial in establishing a sense of belonging, being and becoming. A sense of belonging shapes who someone is and acknowledges their place in the world. For children, belonging acknowledges their interdependence with others, in particular belonging first to a family, a neighbourhood and a community, but it also shapes and forms their identities.



# LEARNING OUTCOMES

There are high expectations for all children's learning, particularly from birth to five years and through the transitions to school. The Framework as set out by the Council of Australian Governments communicates the early learning expectations through a set of Learning Outcomes.

The Learning Outcomes are to be encouraged by educators, working closely with families and children, within early learning settings. These outcomes involve children:

- ✎ Developing a strong sense of identity and self.
- ✎ Being connected with and contributing to their world.
- ✎ Having a firm sense of wellbeing.
- ✎ Being confident and involved learners.
- ✎ Being effective communicators.

