

- Provide musical instruments (ukulele, guitar, piano) for non-structured playtime.
- Invite children to bring in a piece of music from their cultural background.

INCURSIONS

The numerous benefits of music in all aspects of early childhood development justify bringing in the experts, so consider a musical incursion. Incursions are an exciting event for children – a break from the norm that can restore focus and engagement, and an opportunity to engage with members of the outside community.

“Incursions are an exciting event for children – a break from the norm that can restore focus and engagement, and an opportunity to engage with members of the outside community”

Incursions are also something for your educators to look forward to. Aside from being a fun change from regular routines, incursions can help educators to conceive new ideas for musical activities to incorporate in their programming.

The two main benefits of booking a music incursion are that everything is provided for you – including musical instruments and other equipment that the children may not normally have access to at your centre – and that experts (and often professional musicians) will be leading the children on a musical adventure.

Music incursions on offer around Australia are numerous and varied, including:

- African dance
- Japanese drumming
- opera singing
- recycled instrument workshops
- Polynesian dance
- percussion instruments
- Bollywood dance
- didgeridoo meditation
- Aboriginal dance
- songwriting.

Are You A Centre Owner That Wants To...

- ★ Increase occupancy
- ★ Achieve a higher assessment rating
- ★ Attract, motivate and retain quality staff
- ★ Embed more music & wellbeing into your centre's curriculum



Get in touch with us today! 13000-B-BEAT

Discover how an easy-to-implement award-winning music program can help you increase occupancy, boost your centre's NQS Rating, motivate and retain the best educators. Bonkers Beat is passionate about empowering educators, enhancing centres' curriculum, and enriching children's and families' lives.

"The power of music and the plasticity of the brain go together very strikingly, especially in young people."
- Oliver Sacks

To access music training and resources scan QR code or visit:

BonkersBeat.com



Top strategies to make your centre's assessment and ratings visit stress free

By Galina Zenin

After 12 years of running Bonkers Beat Music Kinder and being assessed numerous times, I realised that there is a pattern of strategies we have used that contributed to Bonkers Beat's Exceeding rating in 2012, 2016 and 2021, and its Excellent rating in 2018.

The following outlines the strategies and how you can implement them at your service to get extraordinary results.

KEEP YOUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UPDATED

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, within four weeks of receiving notification from the Department of Education and Training, depending on the state, you will be asked to provide the following: the latest version of your Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) or Self-assessment Tool, some policies, samples of educational programs, risk management plans, enrolment records, signed permission forms and a few other documents. Keep your records in order, and set aside one day per month to update your QIP and policies to avoid stress.

BE CONSISTENT WITH YOUR PRACTICES AND ROUTINES

Being consistent is one of the key ingredients to receiving better outcomes for children, as well as a higher rating. It's easy to say, but not easy to do.

If you are working towards an Exceeding rating, you must make sure that all procedures and routines in all rooms are consistent. Some samples

include: transitions (1.1.3), management of hygiene practices (2.1.2), physical environment (3.2.1, 3.2.3) and relationships with children (5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.2).

According to Bonkers Beat's latest Assessment and Rating Report 2021, 'The consistency in intent and the approach to practice across the service created a strong sense of continuity, predictability and security for each child'.

REFLECT WITH YOUR TEAM ON YOUR CENTRE'S PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICES

Reflective practice is an important component of high-quality service. Initiate and lead reflective practice in your service to continually improve. Make sure your centre's philosophy is holistic, that practices are embedded in service operations, and that educational programs enhance each child's development. When reflecting on your centre's philosophy, don't forget to engage educators, families and children in decision-making. Quality Area 1 of the National Quality Standard is one of the most important and complex. To get better outcomes for children and receive a higher rating, aim for all educators to be trained and empowered so they can lead a wide range of daily experiences.

This article is an edited version of '7 strategies to make your centre's A&R visit stress-free' by Galina Zenin. To read the full version, visit bit.ly/7strategies_assessmentvisits.

To discover more tips and join our upcoming webinars, call 13000-B-BEAT or visit nqsrating.com.au.