

# COLAB POLICY PAPERS SERIES

## EARLY CHILDHOOD IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICY SERIES: OVERVIEW



CoLab (Collaborate for Kids) was formed in 2016, a partnership between the Telethon Kids Institute and the Minderoo Foundation, with the aim of bringing together families, clinicians, educators, policy makers, other practitioners and researchers to provide evidence to improve service delivery and community capacity to meet the needs of children, families and communities experiencing vulnerability. It is committed to translating and communicating research about what works best to support young children's development and learning.

Research shows that, while a healthy and positive start to life can strengthen a child's biological system and enable them to reach their full potential, a poor start to life can undermine a child's development, weaken physiological responses and restrict their capacity to develop diverse competencies.

In Western Australia, there is readily available evidence that as many as one in five children have developmental vulnerabilities at four years of age. CoLab is committed to better understanding why this occurs and determining what policy and practice actions are needed to ensure all children have the best possible start to life.

This series of Policy Papers provides an analysis of early childhood vulnerability in Western Australia, offers models for improved early childhood policy and practice in the future before presenting reasoned, evidence-based options and recommendations for the state's policy makers.

### Early Childhood in Western Australia: The Policy Series



1. The Early Years In Western Australia: The Last 50 Years
2. How Are Our Children Doing? The Developmental Status Of Western Australia's Children
3. Early Childhood Services In Western Australia: What are the Issues?
4. What The Research Says: Improving The Development And Learning Of Western Australia's Children
5. All The Help You Need Within Pram-Pushing Distance: A Vision For An Integrated Early Childhood System In Western Australia

CoLab recognises the early childhood sector is complex and lacks agreed definition and common understanding across participants and providers.

CoLab intends the language and themes captured in this series of Policy Papers is widely accessible. CoLab will ensure all Western Australians understand what we collectively need to do to ensure all our children are thriving from birth to when they start school.