

2026 Reading List for ECEC Leaders

Curated by the EYL Networkx committee · Selected for relevance to early childhood leadership in WA

Leadership & Team Culture

The Fearless Organization

Amy C. Edmondson · 2018 · Wiley

The foundational text on psychological safety in teams. Directly applicable to ECEC leadership — why it matters that educators feel safe to speak up, and how to build that culture.

Leadership on the Line

Ronald Heifetz & Marty Linsky · 2002 · Harvard Business Review Press

Essential reading on adaptive leadership — the kind of leadership required when there is no technical solution to the challenge at hand. Highly relevant to pedagogical and systems change in ECEC.

Dare to Lead

Brené Brown · 2018 · Vermilion

Practical and research-grounded, this book makes the case for vulnerability, courage, and values-based leadership. Accessible language and directly applicable to leading ECEC teams.

Pedagogy & Early Learning

Pedagogical Documentation in Early Years Settings

Alma Fleet, Catherine Patterson & Janet Robertson · 2017 · SAGE

The most practically relevant Australian text on pedagogical documentation. If you are working on building a culture of inquiry and reflection in your team, start here.

Visible Learning for Early Childhood

John Hattie & Kyle Hattie · 2022 · Corwin

Brings the evidence base from Hattie's broader research into the early years context. Useful for understanding what actually makes a difference to children's learning and development.

The Hundred Languages of Children

Carolyn Edwards, Lella Gandini & George Forman (Eds.) · 3rd ed. 2012 · Praeger

The essential text on the Reggio Emilia approach. Relevant regardless of your service's philosophical framework — the questions Reggio asks about children's competence are universal.

Child Development

The Whole-Brain Child

Daniel J. Siegel & Tina Payne Bryson · 2011 · Bantam Books

Accessible neuroscience for practitioners working with children's emotional and behavioural development. Invaluable for educator professional development and family communication.

Beyond Behaviourism

Jillian Rodd · 2015 · Allen & Unwin

Australian-authored and directly relevant to ECEC practice. Reframes challenging behaviour as communication and provides practical leadership strategies for building responsive team culture.

Thirty Million Words

Dana Suskind · 2015 · Dutton

Compelling evidence for the importance of language-rich environments in the first three years. Essential context for understanding early intervention and the role of ECEC in addressing disadvantage.

Policy & Australian ECEC Context

Belonging, Being & Becoming — Early Years Learning Framework

AGDE · 2022 (V2.0) · Australian Government

The updated EYLF. If you have not revisited it since the 2022 revisions, it is worth reading in full — the updates reflect a stronger emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and sustainability. Free download: education.gov.au

Profile of Children and Young People in WA 2026

Commissioner for Children and Young
People WA · 2026 · CCYP WA

The most current snapshot of WA child wellbeing data. Essential reading for service leaders in WA — see the EYL Networx article and data sheet for a summary. Free download: ccyp.wa.gov.au

Lifting Our Game

Professor Frank Oberklaid et al. · 2009 ·
Department of Education and Early
Childhood Development, Victoria

Although older, this report remains the foundational Australian evidence base for the importance of high-quality early childhood education and care. Still cited in current policy discussions.

This list is updated annually by the EYL Networx committee. Suggestions welcome — contact us at hello@eylnetworx.org.au