

# Amplifier

*A metaphor to explain the function and importance of child care centres*



*The story you're telling:*

**"Like an amplifier takes an incoming signal and makes it stronger and clearer, quality child development centres can help Australia's children reach their full potential."**

*Strategic way to redirect thinking away from patterns such as:*

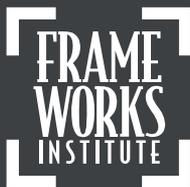


- **Bubble Wrap**
- **Child Care = Babysitting**
- **Context is Key**
- **Environments = People**
- **Family Bubble**
- **Information is Everything**
- **Threat of Modernity**

*Concepts and ideas included in this frame element:*

- Just like an amplifier takes an incoming signal and makes it **stronger and clearer**, a good child development centre amplifies children's development. It strengthens things that children will need for the rest of their lives, like social skills, problem solving, flexibility and self-confidence.
- Child development centres represent a **vital context of development** and should be set up to optimize the potential for creating positive developmental outcomes for all Australian children.
- Amplifiers **add on to and supplement** sources of input, and **do not replace** them. So too with child centre sites, which do not supplant or devalue the importance of parents.
- Just like an amplifier needs to be designed, built and maintained by trained professionals, child care centres need **well-trained staff** and **well-designed programs**.

(Continued on reverse)



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- High quality child development centres are **responsive and flexible** and can be calibrated to enrich the development of all kinds of children.
- These centres can also function as key sites of **intervention** – identifying and providing experiences that address developmental challenges.
- Child development centres **work with parents, families, and other partners** to increase positive outcomes for all children and their communities.
- We need to make sure that **all Australian children** have access to quality development amplifiers.