



**Thousands will
participate.
Will your voice
be included?**

Take the 2026 National
Workforce Survey for
Child, Parent and Family
Mental Health.



**Emerging
Minds.**

The 2026 National Workforce Survey for Child, Parent and Family Mental Health is now open!

- Takes approximately 25 minutes
- Confidential participation
- Open until 30 November 2026
- Chance to win one of five iPads

CASE SCENARIO

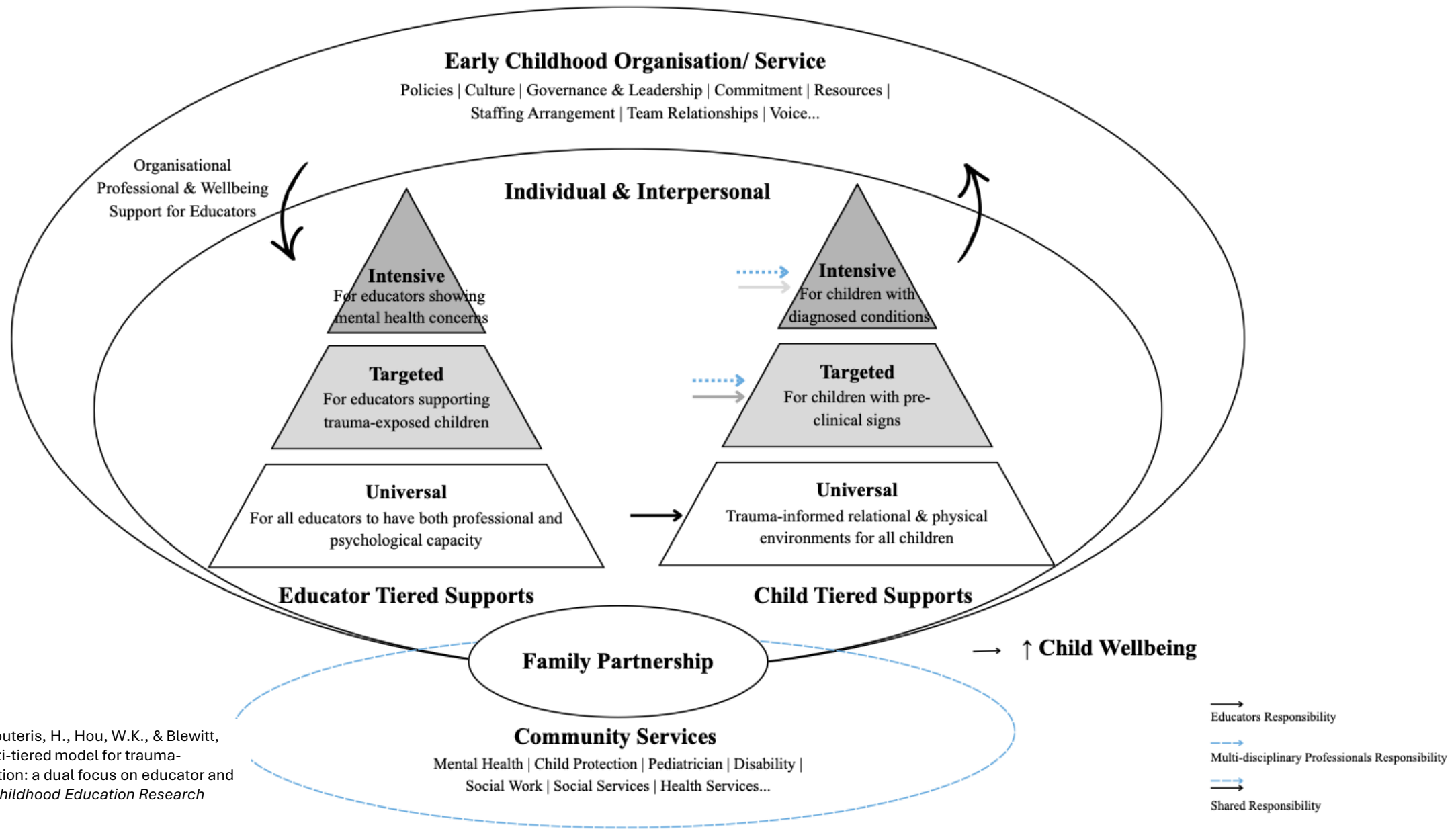
Meet Elias

- Elias (4yrs) and Zoe (2yrs) live with mum, Alexis and dad, Christian in a regional town.
- They have attended the same early learning centre for the past 15 months.
- In the past month, staff have noticed a shift in Elias's behaviour – distressed and agitated more easily, more big emotional responses, more disagreements with other children (sometimes physical), refusing to follow staffs' requests.
- Elias has been seeing a speech pathologist in town for approx. 5 months to address some communication delays.
- Initial report from speech assessment is on file, but no-one has had a chance to read it and there has been no further contact with the speech pathologist.



Figure

A Parallel Multi-tiered Model for Trauma-Informed Early Childhood Education (Sun et al., 2026)





Family Partnership

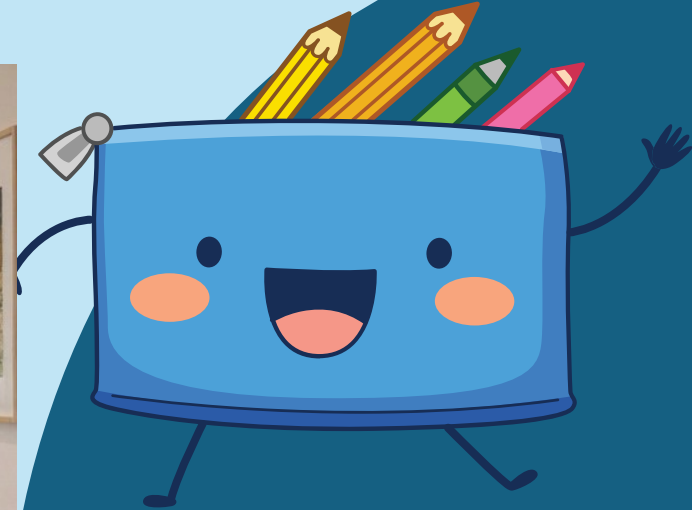


Cultural Responsiveness



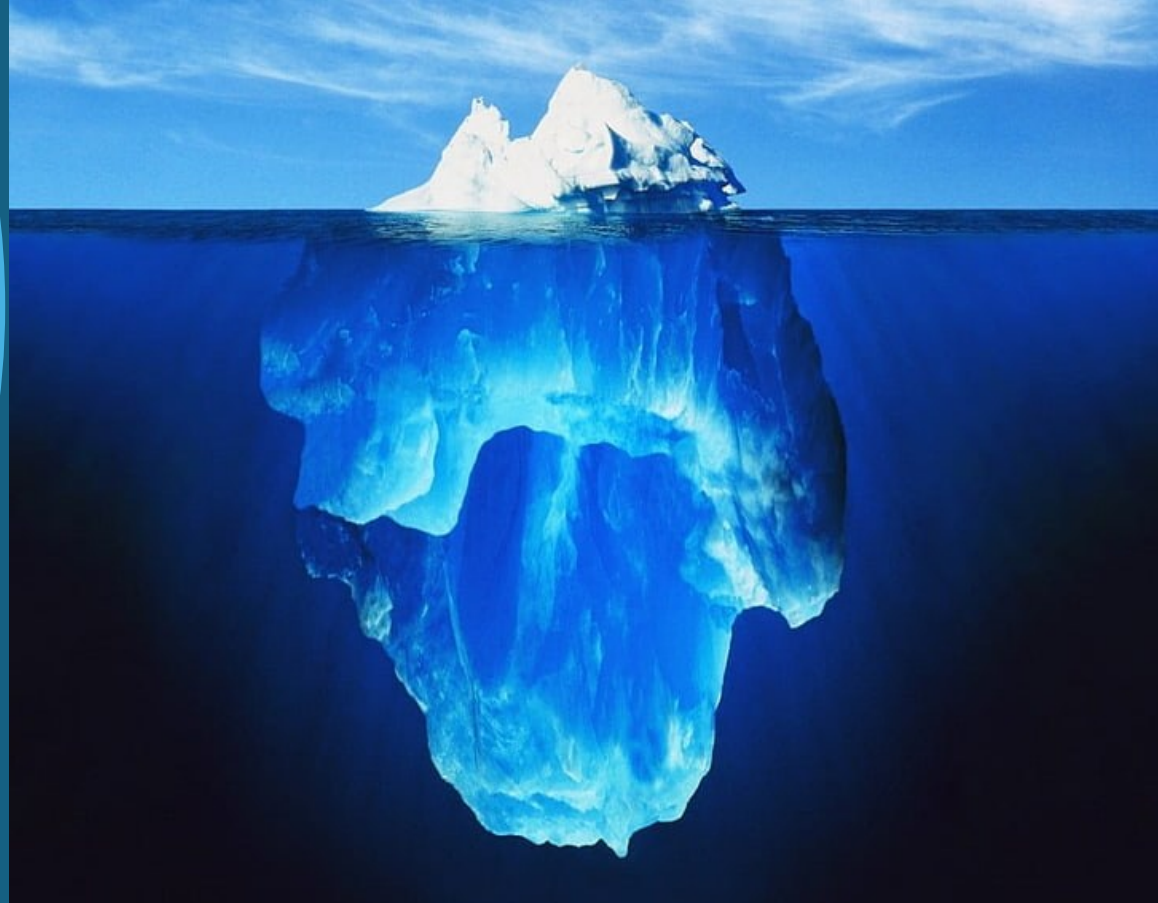
Trauma-Informed Practice

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**Relationship
before
intervention**

Curiosity Before Assumptions



- "Iceberg of Behaviour" graphic:
 - Above water: behaviour observed
 - Below water: trauma, change, grief, uncertainty, displacement, family stress

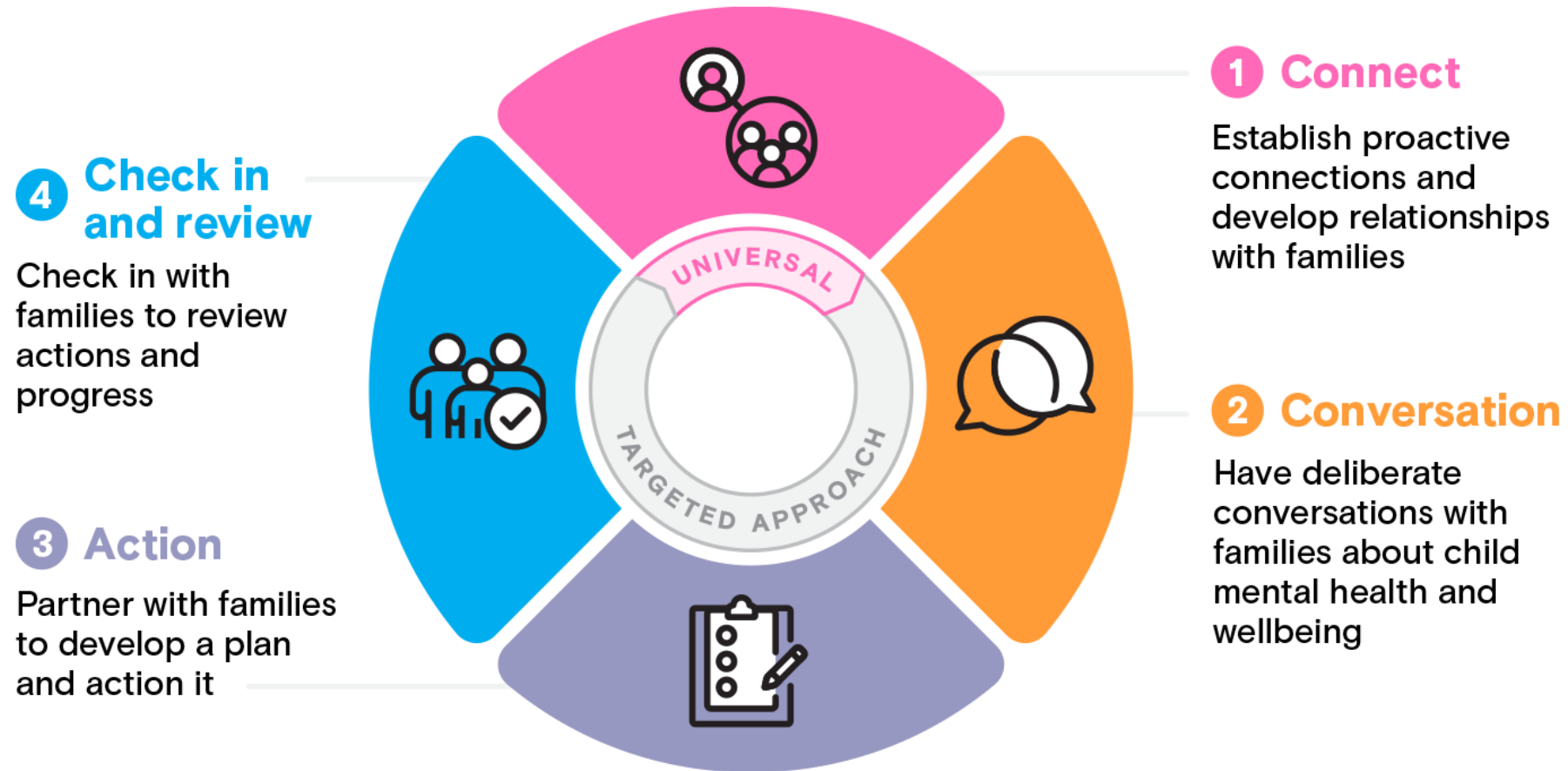
CASE SCENARIO

Meet Elias (cont.)

- Flood 10 months ago damaged many homes and businesses in the community.
- ELC was closed for two weeks to repair damages to the building, and some areas of the grounds are still off-limits.
- Some staff have relocated since the flood, which has left the Centre under pressure to cover necessary staffing ratios.
- Alexis apologises for Elias's behaviour: 'I don't know what's gotten into him lately'.
- Alexis seems tired and anxious to get the meeting over and done with.



The Family Partnerships Practice Model

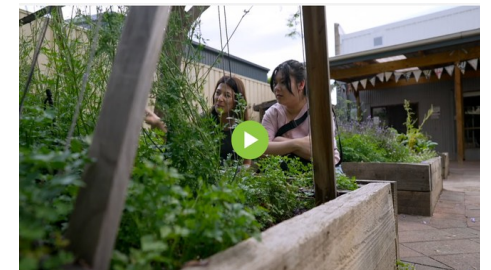


Step 2 of the Family Partnerships Practice Model



2 Conversation

Framing the conversation, naming the concern, exploring both contexts and developing a shared understanding.



Effective Partnerships

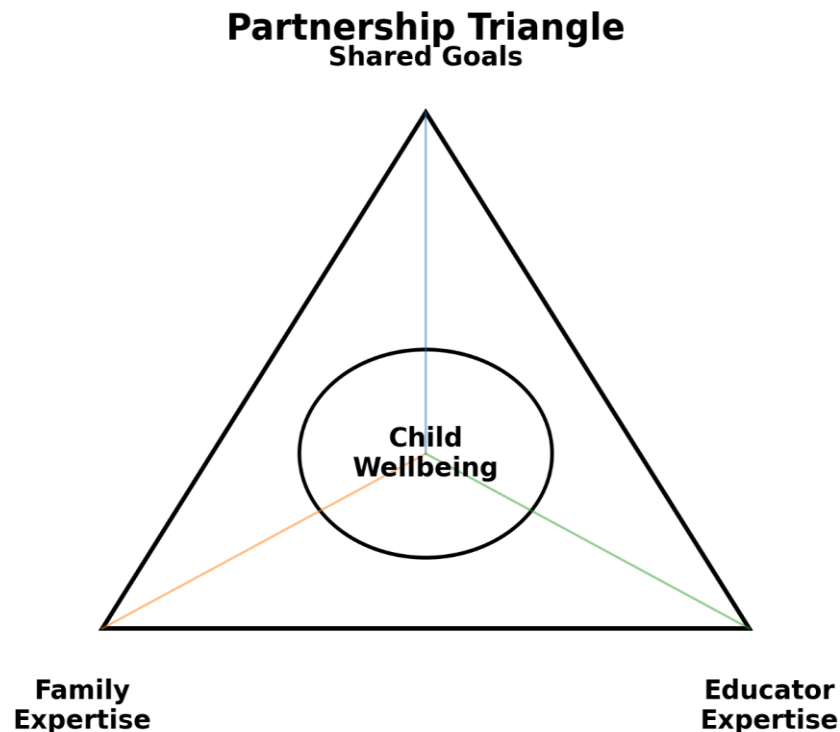


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- Partnership Triangle infographic:
 - Family Expertise
 - Educator Expertise
 - Shared Goals
 - Child Wellbeing at the centre

Feeling Heard and Included

Before	During	After
Prepare	Listen	Follow-up
Interpreter	Validate	Review progress
Strengths	Shared decisions	Adjust plans



CASE SCENARIO

Meet Elias (cont.)

- Damage to family home - living with Christian's parents 30km away due to lack of affordable housing options.
- Financial pressure stemming from job losses related to the flood.
- Christian's parents are 'kind but old-fashioned'; family is struggling to adjust to the rules and routines of their household.
- No availability in the ELCs in their new town.
- Elias's speech pathology sessions disrupted due to changes in staff and restricted access to the service.



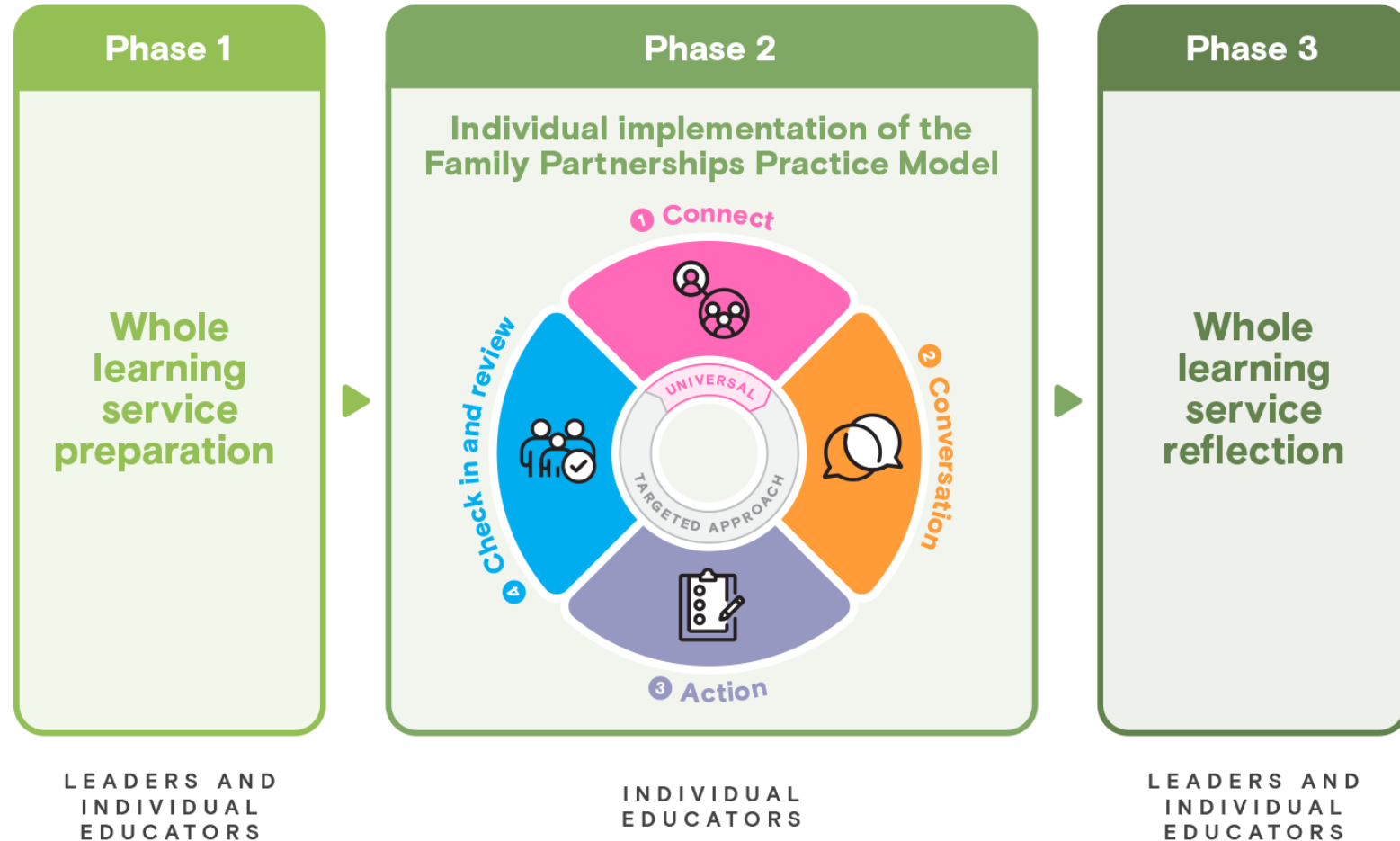
Responding to Family Circumstances

Strengths-Based Response Flowchart



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Implementation across a whole early learning service



Family Partnerships Toolkit

<https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/toolkits/family-partnerships-for-educators-toolkit/early-learning-services/>

