



Australian Government



***Mini Q* Exhibit Themes and Curriculum Links**

Questacon's *Mini Q* is a specialised early childhood gallery in Gallery 6 (based in Canberra), which is suitable for visitors aged 0 to 6 years and their Carers. This document outlines *Mini Q*'s zones and key curriculum links. *Mini Q*'s zones are designed to encourage educational play for different developmental stages. In all *Mini Q* zones, Carers are encouraged to share play experiences, while also allowing the child independence to control or direct their own playful investigations.

Active Play: Balance, navigate and roll around

For toddlers, pre-schoolers and school aged children

Active Play helps children develop physical co-ordination, thinking skills and confidence. Children are encouraged to try out new skills on the equipment, which aims to improve a child's control, balance, agility and strength. Mentally, children are challenged to think, plan and respond with purposeful movements.

Role Play: Shop, work and play

For toddlers, pre-schoolers and school aged children

Mini Q's Role Play areas are equipped to create imaginary worlds of a bakery, animal hospital, motor mechanics and building construction zone. Children are encouraged to observe, imitate and invent make-believe situations which aim to develop their imagination and creativity. Role play allows children to 'try on' different situations to help them understand the world around them as well as allowing them some degree of control and emotional release.

Sensory Space: Multisensory stimulation

For toddlers, pre-schoolers and school aged children

Explore different textures, sounds, lights and movements with your child. All children are fascinated by the nature of light, so pre-schoolers may focus on the visual exhibits. Some things in Sensor Space stimulate several senses at once— they are multi-sensory. See if your child can make connections between the sights, sounds and sensations of the bubble tubes.

Space Lab: A place to pretend, predict and explore

For babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and school aged children

As well as providing astronaut role play set work, this zone provides basic science equipment for simple experiments. Science is about discovery and children love to question, discover and build an understanding of the world.

Water Play: Make water flow and work as a team

For babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and school aged children

Water Play provides a series of water tanks, water tables, water channels, vessels and things that float or sink. The baby's area encourages exploration of cause and effect of splashes. Toddlers engage with solitary play, while some sections encourage pre-schoolers and school aged children to work together to divert water to create a theatrical splash response. Playing with water improves a child's ability to plan, measure and predict events (such as whether something will float or sink).

Australian Curriculum Links

Mini Q has been designed and constructed along early childhood education principles. Some activities within the space align with the Australian National Science Curriculum. Core links indicate content that is directly covered within the exhibition, while optional links indicate content that is dependent on how people use and facilitate various exhibits.

Foundation core links

Planning and conducting (ACSYS011) Explore and make observations by using the senses

Chemical sciences (ACSSU003) Objects are made of materials that have observable properties

Year 1 core links

Communicating (ACSYS029) Represent and communicate observations and ideas in a variety of ways such as oral and written language, drawing and role play

Planning and conducting (ACSIS025) Participate in different types of guided investigations to explore and answer questions, such as manipulating materials, testing ideas and accessing information sources

Nature and development of science (ACSHE021) Science involves asking questions about, and describing changes in, objects and events

Year 1 optional link

Use and influence of science (ACSHE022) People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things