A joint approach to giving young Territory kids a better start to a lifetime of learning was launched today by the Minister for Employment, Education and Training and the Minister for Community Services.

An Australian first, *Strong Beginnings: An Explicit Guide to Quality Practice in the Early Years* was jointly launched by Education Minister Paul Henderson and Family and Community Services Minister Delia Lawrie.

*Strong Beginnings* targets explicit, quality teaching for 3 – 5 year olds. It builds on the Age of Entry trials which now include fifty-seven schools across the Territory and is leading edge practice for early childhood across the nation.

This comprehensive resource and teaching kit supports early childhood educators to deliver quality learning programs for children aged from three to five.

*Strong Beginnings* compliments the Territory Government’s innovative literacy program *Raising a Reader* which has been well received by parents and teachers since its launch in 2006.

Over 50 Northern Territory early childhood educators worked on the document.

Educators will be able to customise the resource for their own level of professional knowledge, their specific environment and the needs of the children they are working with.

“The individual children’s strengths and needs must be at the centre of planning and monitoring of children’s learning and development,” Minister Henderson said.

“No matter where children access early learning and care, it’s important that they have the best possible start to their education.

“*Strong Beginnings* will ensure that consistent, high-quality learning and care are available throughout children’s early years,” Minister Henderson said.

For more information or to download the Strong Beginnings Guide, please visit [www.strongbeginnings.nt.gov.au](http://www.strongbeginnings.nt.gov.au) or phone 8999 3707.

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