

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM POLICY- under review

Research accentuates that high quality educational programs significantly influence children’s development in all areas. We have the opportunity to provide a supportive learning environment and program, gaining inspiration from the children and families. Thoughtfully planned experiences and environments encourage the children to feel a sense of control over their actions, be curious and investigate, and explore their understanding of themselves, others, and the world around them. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the convention) (United Nations 1989) states *‘that all children have the right to an education that lays a foundation for the rest of their lives, maximises their ability, and respects their family, cultural and other identities and languages.’* (EYLF, V2.2, 2022, p.5).

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 1: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE		
1.1	Program	The educational program enhances each child’s learning and development.
1.1.1	Approved learning framework	Curriculum decision-making contributes to each child’s learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators.
1.1.2	Child-centred	Each child’s current knowledge, strengths, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation of the program.
1.1.3	Program learning opportunities	All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child’s learning.
1.2	Practice	Educators facilitate and extend each child’s learning and development.
1.2.1	Intentional teaching	Educators are deliberate, purposeful, and thoughtful in their decisions and actions.
1.2.2	Responsive teaching and scaffolding	Educators respond to children’s ideas and play and extend children’s learning through open-ended questions, interactions and feedback.
1.2.3	Child directed learning	Each child's agency is promoted, enabling them to make choices and decisions that influence events and their world.
1.3	Assessment and planning	Educators and coordinators take a planned and reflective approach to implementing the program for each child.

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1.3.1	Assessment and planning cycle	Each child’s learning and development is assessed or evaluated as part of an ongoing cycle of observation, analysing learning, documentation, planning, implementation and reflection.
1.3.2	Critical reflection	Critical reflection on children’s learning and development, both as individuals and in groups, drives program planning and implementation.
1.3.3	Information for families	Families are informed about the program and their child's progress.
QUALITY AREA 7: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP		
7.2.2	Educational leadership	The educational leader is supported and leads the development of the educational program and assessment and planning cycle

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS	
Sec.168	Offence relating to required programs
73	Educational programs
74	Documenting of child assessments or evaluations for delivery of educational program
75	Information about educational program to be kept available
76	Information about educational program to be given to parents
118	Educational leader
148	Educational leader
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures are to be followed

RELATED POLICIES

Behaviour Guidance Policy Code of Conduct Policy Cyber Safety Policy Environmental Responsibility Policy Excursion/Incursion Policy Partnerships and Communication with families Policy Interactions with Children, Family and Staff Policy	Equal opportunity Community involvement Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Supervision Policy Child safe environments
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PURPOSE

We aim to enhance children’s learning and development through the pedagogical practices of educators in a positive learning environment through which the five learning outcomes from the *Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) (V2.0)* are supported and promoted. Educators will gather and interpret information about children as individuals to inform the preparation of the environment, and implement experiences that are engaging and meaningful, supporting children’s holistic development. We support the vision of the EYLF, V2.0 to ensure ‘*all children experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life.*’

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations, approved services are required to base their educational program on an approved learning framework. The program should focus on addressing the developmental needs, interests, and previous experiences of each child, while considering the individual differences of each child. There are two nationally approved learning frameworks in Australia which outline practices that support and promote children’s learning:

- [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.V2.0, 2022](#)
- [My Time, Our Place- Framework for School Age Care in Australia.V2.0, 2022](#)

OUR SERVICE IS COMMITTED TO THE APPROVED LEARNING FRAMEWORK (EYLF) (V2.0)

The approved learning framework include principles, practices and learning outcomes that guide educational leaders and educators in their curriculum decision making, and assist them in planning, delivering and evaluating quality programs in early childhood settings.

In compliance with the Early Years Learning Framework (V2.0) and Education and Care Services National Regulations, the program will contribute to the following learning outcomes for each child:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

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THE APPROVED PROVIDER WILL ENSURE:

- obligations under the *Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations* are met
- ensure educators, staff, students, visitors and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy
- the education leader selected is supported to lead the development, implementation and review of the educational program and assessment and planning cycle within the Service
- the educational leader has the skills, knowledge and attributes to mentor and work collaboratively with educators, fostering a shared responsibility and professional accountability of children’s learning, development and wellbeing
- the staff record includes the name of the person designated as the educational leader
- the educational leader accepts the position of educational leader in writing (Reg. 118)

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR /EDUCATIONAL LEADER WILL:

- ensure a high-quality educational program based on an approved learning framework is delivered to all children in accordance with the framework (outcomes, practices and principles)
- ensure the program is evidence based, age-appropriate and supports and extends the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child
- ensure the program contributes to the five learning outcomes for each child
- ensure planning for learning is a continuous cycle that involves-observation, planning, implementation, assessment, evaluation and critical reflection
- work in partnership with children and families, communities, teachers in schools and other professionals to inform educational practices that are place-based and relevant to that community (EYLF. p.8)
- ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and Sustainability are embedded in the program
- gather information from families upon enrolment regarding the child’s needs, interest and family backgrounds
- document family input with the educational program to strengthen connections and partnerships
- ensure all educators work as a team in preparing and/or implementing the curriculum which adheres to the service philosophy
- ensure educators are intentional in all aspects of their professional practice
- ensure all children have the access to a quality and inclusive educational program that celebrates and makes visible children’s diversity (EYLF, V2.0)

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- ensure adaptations/adjustments are made in the environment for children with disability and additional needs. Management will make appropriate, professional referrals where necessary with family permission.
- ensure a conscious balance between indoor and outdoor experiences is planned for with large blocks of unstructured time for uninterrupted child-initiated play
- promote children’s physical activity by supporting the development of their gross motor skills and fostering the emergence and refinement of fundamental movement skills through a range of intentionally planned and spontaneous active play learning experiences.
- support families through positive, respectful and reciprocal relationships through regular communication
- ensure the educational program is displayed in a place that is accessible to parents and families (Reg. 75)
- ensure information regarding the content and operation of the education program is provided to families if requested (Reg. 76)
- provide information regarding the child’s participation within the program when requested by families (Reg. 76)
- ensure a copy of the program is available at all times (Reg. 75)
- use children’s play and learning experiences to build and develop each child’s individual learning profile to record their learning journey. This may include moments through the APP, observations, photographs with captions and annotations, Learning journey, children’s feedback and other documentation demonstrating strengths and development.
- ensure documentation relating to child assessments or evaluations for delivery of the education program are recorded (Reg. 74), including:
 - assessments of the child’s developmental needs, interests, experiences and participation in the education program
 - assessments of the child’s progress against the outcomes of the educational program

EDUCATORS WILL:

- collaborate with the educational leader for curriculum direction and guidance
- collaborate with children to influence the development of the program in response to their own strengths, ideas, abilities and interests
- act deliberately, thoughtfully and purposefully to support children’s learning through play-based learning

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- plan a contextual program that actively promotes or initiates the investigation of ideas, complex concepts and thinking, reasoning and hypothesising the supports in learning, development and wellbeing of each child
- display cultural responsiveness by learning about multiple perspectives and diversity such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, family and individual’s diversity
- use the learning outcomes to guide the planning for children and young people’s learning
- implement an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting, responding to and supporting children’s learning which will underpin the educational program and involve educators in critically thinking about what is achievable and why
- use multiple sources of information to gather and document different aspects of children’s learning, development and wellbeing
- take responsibility to be culturally responsive and be respectful of everyone’s backgrounds, beliefs, values, customs, knowledges, lifestyles and social behaviour
- respect children’s growth mindset and acknowledge children as competent and capable learners
- provide experiences that include both structured and unstructured learning times catering for children’s individual needs and interests and, are age appropriate
- encourage children to act intentionally and with agency in play as they make decisions
- allow large blocks of uninterrupted time to allow children to develop their ideas and interests in their learning environments allowing children to explore their physical, social and intellectual elements of their activities
- intentionally plan and implement learning experiences using information about a child’s interests, curiosities and funds of knowledge
- plan a contextual program that actively promotes or initiates the investigation of ideas, complex concepts and thinking, reasoning and hypothesising the supports in learning, development and wellbeing of each child and young person
- provide experiences that support and develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, enthusiasm, persistence and imagination
- ensure information about the child’s participation in the program is available for families
- utilise families feedback for creating children’s assessment and evaluation creates an authentic and meaningful assessment whilst valuing the children’s role in assessing their learning
- explore ideas and theories using imagination and creative play
- use the learning outcomes, practices and principles to guide planning for children’s learning and play and to encourage development of their self-worth, uniqueness and positive view of themselves

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helping frame their personal and social identity of children and identities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders children

- teach children the importance of taking responsibility towards their own health and safety to ensure their own wellbeing and personal safety
- make use of spontaneous ‘teachable moments’ to extend children’s learning
- respond to children’s displays of learning dispositions by commenting on them and providing encouragement and additional ideas
- further extend critical thinking skills through provocations
- plan realistic curriculum goals for children based on observation and assessment of individual needs and interests
- seek opportunities within the routine for spontaneous play and experiences
- ensure that all children’s experiences are recognised and valued with equitable access to resources and opportunities to demonstrate their learning
- use a variety of methods to assist reflection on children’s experiences, thinking, and learning
- ensure critical reflection clearly exams all aspects of events and experiences from different perspectives, identifying children’s learning, spontaneous play, teaching strategies, and changes that may be needed in the environment
- assist children to develop daily habits, understanding, and skills that support health and wellbeing.
- Access to the Tv will be carefully monitored to ensure developmentally appropriate learning with programs that reflect the service philosophy are being viewed.

DAILY ROUTINES

Routines will be built around the regular events of the day i.e. arrival, snacks/drinks, toileting/nappy change, main meals, washing, dressing, sleeping and departure, and will consider the developmental needs of individual children, children's attendance patterns, climate and physical environment, the numbers and ages of children within a given group, children with special needs, new children entering the group and family expectations.

Flexibility is built into routines so that children’s involvement in activities and any special needs are accommodated. Children will be provided with opportunities to interact and develop positive relationships with each other whilst being educated and cared for by the service.

The program will provide a variety of developmentally appropriate experiences and materials that are selected to achieve the following goals:

- foster a positive self-concept
- develop and support social skills
- develop and support children’s cognitive skills such as the ability to think, reason, question, and experiment
- develop and support language development
- enhance physical development and skills
- support sound health, safety, personal hygiene, and nutritional practices
- support creative expression

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- support respect for cultural diversity of staff and children
- support respect for gender diversity.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The *Educational Program Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with children, families, educators, staff and management.

SOURCES

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