

**Our Early Childhood Educational Philosophy and Program**

## **Our Educational Philosophy**

Campbelltown City Council's Education and Care Services aims to provide children with a high quality educational program. Each child's individual learning and development is supported through the provision of an inclusive, safe and secure environment.

Our educational philosophy is influenced and based on the Education and Care Services National Regulations, The Early Years Learning Framework, The Framework for School Age Care and the National Quality Standards.

## **Educational Program**

Our educational program includes the following elements:

### **1. Preparation for school (Long Day Care and Family Day Care)**

Preparation for school commences from the time children enrol at the service. A preschool program is designed and implemented by qualified educators in a structured learning environment for 3 – 5 year olds that attend the service.

Educators build on the range of experiences with language, literacy and numeracy that children have within their families and communities. Planned and spontaneous experiences contribute to building confidence, problem solving skills and critical thinking to successfully communicate their ideas. This also includes providing our children with social emotional competency in preparation for school.

Our educators liaise with local primary schools to support with children's transition to school and provide information regarding:

- skills needed to start school
- orientation days
- the enrolment process
- programs that schools run prior to commencement of the school year
- your child's developmental information/transition to school statement on request.

We aim to work together in partnership with families, local schools and professional organisations or the successful preparation and transition to school for each individual child.

### **2. Group Experiences**

Planned and spontaneous, small and large group experiences are conducted by educators on a daily basis to support the children's critical thinking, extend upon identified interests, facilitate emerging language and literacy development and offer music and movement experiences.

### **3. Routines**

Campbelltown City Council's Education and Care Services provides flexible care routines that allow children the time and opportunity to explore and develop life skills. Routine times are not seen as separate to the program, but an important opportunity for education and development. Individual routines are discussed with families both on enrolment and on an ongoing basis as the need arises.

There are opportunities throughout the day for family grouping within our services where siblings and other children of differing ages are given the opportunity to interact, engage and co construct with each other through play.

### **4. Program Planning and Documentation**

#### **Portfolios**

Every child will have a portfolio (Long Day Care), which is a collection of learning materials containing examples of:

- individual child observations with reference to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
- samples of child's work
- photos
- projects/explorations and investigations
- reflective experiences
- conversations with children and families
- reflective Diary entries
- checklists on children's learning and development
- analysis of children's learning and development
- individual future planning

At the end of each calendar year, families will be presented with their child's portfolio.

#### **Reflective Diary**

The reflective diary is completed on a daily basis and is a reflection of some of the day's major activities and/or experiences. It includes written information, photos and references to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia and the Framework for School Age Care. This reflective diary is on display for parents and families to read. Input and feedback is welcomed and appreciated.

#### **Projects**

Project work is an in depth, ongoing investigation of a particular interest among the children, families or community. The duration of the projects is determined by the interest level of the children involved and are often displayed on the walls or in a project folder.

Our projects include references to contemporary theories, research and, in particular, the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia and the Framework for School Age Care.

## **Munch and Move**

Munch and Move is a joint initiative between the New South Wales Department of Health and the New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services.

The Munch and Move initiative is implemented as part of the program within Family, Education and Community Services and promotes healthy eating and healthy lifestyles within the education and care services sector. The program focuses on the support and development of children's fundamental movement skills (FMS) through play based games.

The five key points for Munch and Move are:

1. Choose water as a drink.
2. Eat fewer snacks and select healthier alternatives.
3. Eat more fruit and vegetables.
4. Get active each day.
5. Turn off the television and computer and get active.

## **5. Indoor/outdoor learning centres**

Our services offer simultaneous indoor and outdoor experiences providing a balance of choice between active and passive learning opportunities. Learning centres are established throughout the indoor and outdoor environments catering for all curriculum areas, fostering hands on learning, experimentation and children's choice. Educators make purposeful decisions in relation to the resources provided within each learning centre. These can be child initiated and are reflective of current interests, projects and needs.

## **6. Family and Community Involvement**

Campbelltown City Council's Family, Education and Community Services values partnerships with families and communities. "Learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when educators work in partnership with families. Educators recognise that families are children's first and most influential teachers" (DEEWR 2009, page 12).

Family and community partnerships with the service may include:

- exchanging information about their family and their child
- collaborating and participating in service open days/community events and/or celebrations
- implementing and attending family committee meetings, information sessions and educator interviews
- contributing to individual portfolios
- providing photos to share

## **7. The Education and Qualifications of our Staff**

Long Day Care, Outside School Hours Care and Family Day Care have designated "educational leaders". The educational leader is a suitably qualified and experienced educator who leads and supports the development and implementation of educational programs and practise in the service.

Our educators child development qualifications include:

- Bachelor of Teaching and/or Bachelor of Education
- Diploma in Children's Services
- Certificate III in Children's Services

- Certificate IV in Outside School Hours Care

### **Importance of Play**

As educators we “honour children’s right to play, as both a process and context for learning” (ECA, 2006) and that children learn through quality play within many social contexts.

“Play promotes a positive disposition to learning” (DEEWR, 2009, page 15), it is fun for all of us and the most amazing thing is that children don’t even realise that they are engaging in learning experiences.

Children are engaged in many different types of play (*child initiated, child directed, educator supported and educator directed*) which when supplemented with intentional teaching techniques assist children in acquiring skills in all developmental areas.

### **Reference List**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, (2009). *Belonging, Being and Becoming; The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.*

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), (2006). *ECA Code of Ethics*, retrieved from [www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au)

**For more information on Long Day Care, Family Day Care, Outside School Hours Care and School Holiday Care please call 4645 4443.**

### **Long Day Care**

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Opening Hours</b>
Amarina Early Learning Centre	Airds	7.00am – 6.00pm
Amber Cottage Early Learning Centre	Ambarvale	7.00am – 6.00pm
Eagles Nest Early Learning Centre	Eschol Park	7.00am – 6.00pm
Kabbarli Early Learning Centre	Minto	7.00am – 6.00pm
Minto Early Learning Centre	Minto	7.00am – 6.00pm
Namut Early Learning Centre	Campbelltown	7.00am – 6.00pm
Waratah Cottage Early Learning Centre	Claymore	7.00am – 6.00pm
Wombat Willows Early Learning Centre	Macquarie Fields	7.00am – 6.00pm

### **Outside School Hours Care**

Campbelltown City Outside School Hours Care	Campbelltown	7.00am – 8.30am (before school care) 2.30pm – 6.00pm (after school care)
Raby Outside School Hours Care	Raby	7.00am – 8.30am (before school care) 2.30pm – 6.00pm (after school care)

### **School Holiday Care (school holidays only)**

Campbelltown City School Holiday Care	Campbelltown	7.30am – 6.00pm
Eagle Vale School Holiday Care	Eagle Vale	7.30am – 6.00pm

### **Family Day Care**

4645 4600