

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM POLICY

Research emphasises that 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.

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. |
| 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. |

BALLINA RIVER STREET PRESCHOOL

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---|
| 1.3.3 | Information for families | Families are informed about the program and their child's progress. |
|-------|--------------------------|---|

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS

| | |
|-----|---|
| 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 |
| 254 | Declared approved learning frameworks |

RELATED POLICIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Additional Needs Policy Behaviour Guidance Policy Celebrations Policy Code of Conduct Policy Cyber Safety Policy English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) Policy Environmental Responsibility Policy Excursion/Incursion Policy Family Communication Policy | Interactions with Children, Family and Staff Policy Multi-Cultural Policy Photograph Policy Physical Activity Policy Physical Environment Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Professional Development Policy Respect for Children Policy Supervision Policy Transition to School Policy |
|---|---|

PURPOSE

We aim to enhance children’s learning and development through the pedagogical practices of Early Childhood Teachers & Educators in a positive learning environment through which the five learning outcomes from the *Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)* are supported and promoted. Teachers and 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.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, Teachers, Educators, staff, Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, students, volunteers, visitors and management of the Preschool.

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. The approved learning frameworks in New South Wales, which outline practices that support and promote children's learning:

- Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia- Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

OUR SERVICE IS COMMITTED TO THE APPROVED LEARNING FRAMEWORK, The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF)

The approved learning frameworks include principles, practices and learning outcomes that guide educational leaders, teachers 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 and National Regulations, the program will contribute to the following outcomes for each child:

- The child will have a strong sense of identity
- The child will be connected with and contribute to his or her world
- The child will have a strong sense of wellbeing
- The child will be a confident and involved learner, and
- The child will be an effective communicator.

Our Preschool also supports the Early Years Learning Framework through the following:

- Each child's learning will be based on their interests and strengths and guided by educators
- Educators must work in collaboration with families to provide relevant learning experiences for each child, based on their interests and family experiences
- Every child will be equally valued. Their achievements and learning will be celebrated
- Educators will observe and record the strengths and learning of each child
- Educators will work closely with children and families to produce ideas for the curriculum

BALLINA RIVER STREET PRESCHOOL

- Learning Outcomes will be linked to the curriculum during and after each child's learning has occurred
- The curriculum will be constructed based on the children's interests, educators extending children's interests, spontaneous experiences, and family contribution
- Where appropriate, the service will liaise with external agencies and support persons to best educate and care for children with additional needs
- Each child's play and learning experiences will be used to build and develop each child's individual learning profile to record their learning journey. This may include Learning Stories, portfolios, observations, photographs with captions and annotations, children's feedback and other documentation demonstrating strengths and development.
- The curriculum will be evaluated and reflected upon continuously by teachers and educators as part of the ongoing cycle of assessment and planning.
- Appointing an Educational Leader to oversee the development, implementation and review of our educational program while supporting and mentoring teachers and educators in all aspects of the program.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER WILL ENSURE:

- the education leader selected is supported to lead the development and implementation of the educational program and assessment and planning cycle within the preschool.
- the educational leader has the skills, knowledge and attributes to mentor and support educator's understanding of educational programming and practice.
- 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 / MANAGEMENT / NOMINATED SUPERVISOR / RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ EDUCATIONAL LEADER WILL:

- ensure that a suitable program based on an approved learning framework is delivered to all children
- collaborate with teachers and educators and provide curriculum direction and guidance
- ensure all teachers and educators work as a team in preparing and/or implementing the curriculum which adheres to the preschool philosophy
- develop collaborative relationships with families to achieve quality outcomes for all children building on understandings of diversity, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- ensure modifications are made in the environment for children with disability and additional needs. Management will make appropriate, professional referrals where necessary with family permission.

BALLINA RIVER STREET PRESCHOOL

- 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. (See: *Physical Activity Policy*)
- ensure key physical activity recommendations from *Munch and Move* are embedded into our curriculum
- 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)
- 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.

TEACHERS and EDUCATORS WILL:

- collaborate with the educational leader for curriculum direction and guidance
- implement an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting and evaluating children’s learning which will underpin the educational program and involve teachers and educators in critically thinking about what is achievable and why
- gather evidence of children’s learning to ensure the educational program is responsive to the strengths, needs and interests of young children
- ensure the curriculum reflects diversity and reflects the values and beliefs of children and families
- take responsibility to be culturally competent and display positive attitudes towards cultural differences, respectfully acknowledge multiple cultural ways of knowing, seeing and being
- document children’s experiences and their responses to the environment making children’s learning visible to educators and families and promote shared learning and collaboration

BALLINA RIVER STREET PRESCHOOL

- provide experiences that include both structured and unstructured learning times catering for children's individual needs and interests and, are age appropriate
- ensure materials and equipment reflect the cultural diversity and family values that exists in our society
- intentionally promote learning about a child's culture, county and community through dance, music, language and dialect, stories, art and craft
- respond to children's ideas and play and use intentional teaching to scaffold and extend each child's learning
- provide experiences that actively promote and initiate the investigation of ideas, complex concepts and thinking, reasoning and hypothesising
- provide experiences that support and develop all developmental areas and curriculum areas including music, maths, and science
- plan and implement the intentional teaching of Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) to support the physical development of children of all ages
- gather information from families upon enrolment regarding the child's needs, interests, and family backgrounds. This information is treated as confidential and allows teachers and educators to provide experiences that interest and extend children's current development. We feel that it is important to develop a partnership between parents and educators to ensure that consistency between home and the Preschool occurs and that the best possible care and education is provided.
- collaborate with children and families to support children's learning
- ensure information about the child's participation in the program is available for families
- ensure families receive a copy of children's learning progress
- encourage communication with families about physical activity, gross motor, and fundamental movements skills development
- explore ideas and theories using imagination and creative play
- allow blocks of uninterrupted time to allow children to develop their ideas and play
- use the learning outcomes to guide planning for children's learning
- intentionally scaffold children's understanding and learning
- provide children with ongoing encouragement and positive reinforcement
- provide opportunities for children to be active and engaged daily through a balance of planned and spontaneous experiences within the indoor and outdoor environment
- 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

BALLINA RIVER STREET PRESCHOOL

- view children as active participants and decision makers, working with each child's unique qualities and abilities
- 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

OUR PRESCHOOL AIMS TO PROMOTE CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY BY:

- fostering children's Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) including, running, galloping, hopping, jumping, leaping, side-sliding, skipping, overarm throwing, catching, striking a stationary ball, kicking, underarm throwing and stationary dribbling through role modelling skills
- providing active play experiences that encourage children to explore, be creative, and challenge their development
- providing space, time, and resources for children to revisit and practice FMS and engage in active play
- providing opportunities for educators to attend professional development to enhance their skills and knowledge about the importance of physical activity for children.
- providing positive instruction, role modelling, and advice to children as they develop and improve their FMS
- working in collaboration with families and professionals to provide active experiences that are inclusive of all children

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

Our preschool promotes and encourages the healthy development of children through the implementation of the Munch & Move Program (NSW Health initiative). This program supports the healthy development of children, birth to five years, by providing educators with the knowledge and skills to support physical activity, healthy eating and reduced screen time. [see: *Physical Activity Policy*]

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

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

SOURCE

- Arthur, L, Beecher, B, Death, E, Dockett, S, & Farmer, S. (2017). *Programming and planning in early childhood settings (7th Ed.)*. North Ryde, Australia: Cengage Learning Australia.
- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Australian Government Department of Education (2009) *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*.
- Australian Government, Department of Education(2013). *Get Up & Grow. Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood*.
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).
- Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020).
- Munch & Move: <https://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/campaigns-programs/about-munch-move.aspx>
- Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).
- Childcare centre Desktop Policies & Procedures

BALLINA RIVER STREET PRESCHOOL

REVIEW

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| POLICY REVIEWED BY | Maxine Smith | Preschool Director | January 2023 |
| POLICY REVIEWED | JANUARY 2023 | NEXT REVIEW DATE | JANUARY 2024 |
| MODIFICATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of Department name from Department of Education, Skills, and Employment to Department of Education • additional regulation information included (Reg. 74, 75, 76, 118) • annual policy maintenance • minor formatting edits within text • hyperlinks checked and repaired as required • continuous improvement/reflection section added | | |
| POLICY REVIEWED | PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS | NEXT REVIEW DATE | |
| JANUARY 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional related policies added (edited change of name for some policies) • additional information related to cultural competence • collaboration with families and children added • reference to new policy added (Physical Activity Policy) | JANUARY 2023 | |
| JANUARY 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional information and regulations related to role of educational leader • minor editing • sources and links checked for currency and edited where required | JANUARY 2022 | |