Planning and Programming Policy

Rationale:

The educators at The Avenue aim to provide quality care and education for all the children enrolled at all times. The children are provided with developmentally based programs within each room to ensure there are opportunities to further refine and develop new skills within a supportive and nurturing environment. We are also mindful that children require a range of experiences that mirror a home environment so it is important to maintain a balance between structured and less formal play. Play is the way children learn and as much as possible, educators aim to provide a range of experiences that meet the needs of individual children. It is now well known that the early years of a child’s life lay very important foundations for future development and learning. Educators are keen to work with parents to ensure that the education and care that is provided is of a high standard and is relevant to the children at the centre.

Policy:

The Avenue Children’s Centre and Kindergarten will provide a developmentally appropriate program for all children attending the service. The program will provide for the development of each child’s social, physical, emotional and intellectual potential, including language skills and creativity. Children will be actively involved in the program planning. Parents will be asked for their input. The program will meet the needs of each individual child and to the group as a whole. The program will reflect the centre philosophy.

Strategies and practices:

The Early Years Learning Framework describes the principles, practice and outcomes essential to support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school. The Framework has a strong emphasis on play-based learning as play is the best vehicle for young children's learning providing the most appropriate stimulus for brain development. The Framework also recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

- The educators at the Avenue aim to provide a stimulating, positive experience that is developmentally appropriate. The program will foster all aspects of the child development at the same time providing a flexible program to individually meet each child’s needs and interests.
• The educators aims to provide experiences, which allow the child the opportunity to progress to his/her next stage of development or follow through with a particular interest of the child.

• The programs are based on the children’s interests, strengths and needs and we will endeavour to include those in our program.

• The activities and experiences provided are for the benefit of the children, so no emphasis is placed on the finished product. Please don’t be discouraged if your child doesn’t bring home artwork, as he/she has been busy learning living skills – such as dressing/undressing, eating, and serving lunch, pouring or messy type activities.

• We believe in setting limits so that children are able to learn what socially accepted behaviour is, as well as ensuring their safety. The skill of using positive guidance to develop effective relationships with children expands the growth of their self-esteem.

• The Outdoor Program is equally as important as the Indoor Program. Throughout the day, we offer both indoor / outdoor play as would happen in a home environment

• Observing and recording children's behaviours, achievements and milestones is happening on everyday basis and is recorded in journals and individual children's portfolios in written, photographic format and children’s artwork

• Educators will have knowledge of the EYLF learning outcomes and the overall model of the framework for early childhood.

• We will ensure that documentation is displayed and available to families at all time

• Educators will be encouraged to take up training to further develop the process of the EYLF

• Parents and families will be encouraged to share information about their child and be part of our planning and programming

• Educators will be provided with opportunities to further their knowledge of child development theories and practice

• All educator/staff will be encouraged to explore and use good quality resources and training to offer fresh experiences for children and to further their own professional development and skills

Links to other policies:

Privacy Policy
Refusal and Acceptance of Authorisation Policy
Parent Involvement Policy

Sources and further reading:

Education and Care Services National Regulation
Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework
Belonging, Being Becoming, The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Date ratified: 10/09/2011
Date Reviewed: 05/05/2014
Approved by: COM Date: 11/11/2011