

Policy: QA 1.3	Educational Program and Practice
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Policy Statement:

Research has shown that when children attend a quality early childhood education program, there is positive growth in their development, social skills and ability to learn. Children are by nature inquisitive, curious hands-on-learners who benefit from exposure and engagement in a wide variety of learning opportunities. Children have strong interests and unique abilities that help to guide their learning and help them to learn their self-identify, to engage with the community they belong to and learn about the world at large.

Pinnacle Preschool are committed to providing a high quality educational program. This will be facilitated by a university trained early childhood teacher and will reflect the individual learning needs and the strengths and interest of children and families. The educational program will be based on the Early Years Learning Framework and will incorporate the vision of children 'Belonging, Being and Becoming' into all facets of the program.

Record of policy development:

Version	Date approved	Date for review
Version 1	1 September 2019	September 2021
Version 2	19 th May 2022	19 th May 2023

Responsibilities and delegations:

This policy applies to	This policy applies to Pinnacle Preschool staff, volunteers, contractors and families.
Specific responsibilities	This policy is developed by the Manager and reviewed by Pinnacle Preschool staff and Board of Directors. It is communicated and implemented by the Manager and staff.
Policy approval	ODEEP Manager

Policy context – this policy relates to:

Legislation	Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW 2010 Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Regulations 168, 73, 74, 75, 76, 254
Standards	National Quality Standards: Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice 1.1, 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3
Organisation policies	Interactions with Children Policy
Forms, record keeping, other documents	'Belonging, Being and Becoming': Early Years Learning Framework – www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning

	<p>framework Pinnacle Preschool Quality Improvement Plan Pinnacle Preschool Educational Program</p>
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Under the Children (Education and Care Services) National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations, approved services must base their educational program on an approved learning framework. The Early Years Learning Framework is endorsed for use and the educational program at Pinnacle Preschool will use this framework to develop a high quality educational program, inclusive of the following:

- Individual interests and strength of children will be used as a basis of the program;
- Collaborative practice with families / carers will provide culturally relevant programs that reflect the values, beliefs and traditions of their family and community
- The program will set high expectations for children in the five learning outcome areas and document learning reflecting these areas of learning;
 - *Children have a strong sense of identity*
 - *Children are connected with and contribute to their World*
 - *Children have a strong sense of wellbeing*
 - *Children are confident and involved learners*
 - *Children are effective communicators*
- Reflection of children’s learning, interactions, relationships, teaching practices and the impacts of the environment on learning will be an ongoing process of evaluation.
- Play will be used as the platform for children’s learning
- Continual development of professional skills to ensure knowledge and skills are continually improving
- A focus on the importance of building positive relationships with families and children in order to positively influence learning outcomes.
- A strong focus on inclusion and providing each individual child with opportunities and equal access to the learning environment and program.
- The physical environment will foster creativity, be aesthetically pleasing and a calm environment where children have the opportunity to thrive, learn and feel at home
- Educators will use their professional judgement, experience and individual strengths and interest to foster a love of learning.

Procedures:

Pinnacle Preschool management / nominated supervisor:

- Will ensure that a high quality, educational program is delivered to children each day of operation of Pinnacle Preschool
- Will provide relevant training and professional development opportunities to staff to ensure staff remain up to date on the industry practices and have the opportunity to grow their skills as a professional.
- Will ensure that appropriate modifications are made so that children with additional learning needs can be included into the educational program

Pinnacle Preschool staff:

- Ensure that children have the opportunity to take part in physical activities, with measured risk taking, to explore and learn their physical abilities.
- Will work with families in partnership to ensure that families interests and the things that they value are built into the educational program.
- Will ensure that a high quality, educational program based on the EYLF is developed for each day a child is in attendance. This program will be documented and accessible to families, with an opportunity given to participate in the development of the program.
- Will ensure that principles and practices from the 'Munch and Move' program are built into the curriculum and taught to the children.
- Will develop positive relationships with children that show interest in what they like to learn about, be inclusive of individual children's learning styles and provide additional support for learning when required.
- Will access professional development opportunities to build their skills and knowledge on providing a high quality, inclusive program for young children.
- Will use reflective practices and evaluation techniques to continually evaluate the program, to make changes where required and to change practices to suit the individual needs of children and families.
- Will document children's learning to share with families in a range of ways.
- Will provide a balance of structured and unstructured learning times, place emphasis on the building and maintaining of relationships and provide a balance of indoor and outdoor play.
- Will incorporate individual children's interests into the educational program.
- Will ensure that the physical environment reflects the culture and values of the children and families enrolled in the preschool.
- Will educate parents, as required, on best practice principles of educational programs for children eg. the benefits of a play based program vs formalised learning.

Pinnacle Preschool families:

- Will have access to the preschool program on a daily basis.
- Will be invited to contribute to the educational program in a way they are comfortable with.
- Will have opportunities to share their child's interests, strengths and needs to be incorporated in the educational program.

Policy Disclaimer:

This policy will be reviewed to ensure compliance with legislation and industry changes. This will occur at any time that is required, or a minimum of every two years. In accordance with Regulation 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, parents / guardians of enrolled children will be notified at least 14 days prior to a change in any policy or procedure referred to in Regulation 168 that may have a significant impact on the provision of education, fees or the family's access to the service.