

Inclusion and Diversity Policy

Published	June 2018
Review Date	December 2023
Sources	<p>Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017</p> <p>Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017</p> <p>Guide to the National Quality Standard, February 2018</p> <p>Re-Thinking Gender (<i>Glenda MacNaughton 2000</i>) (retrieved 26/5/10)</p> <p>The Anti-Bias Approach in Early Childhood (Dau, 2001) (retrieved 26/5/10)</p> <p>Early Childhood Code of Ethics, Early Childhood Australia, (retrieved 26/5/10)</p> <p>www.eca.com.au</p>

Aim:

To ensure that each child is accepted as a unique individual, living in a unique environment. To recognise that we all come from diverse backgrounds, which reflect different values and opinions. To create an environment that supports, reflects and promotes equitable and inclusive behaviours and practices and respects individual groups of people.

Explanation:

All children and families have the right to be treated with fairness and equity, have the same opportunities for participation and decision-making, and to be accepted as valued members of the community. The Code of Ethics, developed by Early Childhood Australia, underpins the core values, beliefs and practices within Country Children's Early Learning Pty Ltd.

Australia is a multicultural society where different ethnic groups coexist harmoniously, free to maintain and practice their language, religious beliefs and social customs, recognising that all are equal as individuals. We recognise the diversity of the Australian culture and will help to foster an awareness and acceptance of all children, through the thoughtful integration of a variety of culturally diverse and anti-biased activities in the program.

Children who experience relationships that are built on respect, fairness, acceptance, co-operation and empathy are given the opportunity to develop these qualities themselves. Quality interactions increase their knowledge and understanding of themselves and each other as unique individuals.

Definition:

Diversity

"The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique and recognising our individual differences. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies. It is the exploration of these differences in a safe, positive and nurturing environment. It is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual." From <http://gladstone.uoregon.edu>

Responsibilities:**In relation to Co-ordination Unit Staff:**

- Be aware of their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Regulations and the relevant National Quality Standard in relation to inclusion and diversity
- Support the employment of staff and the selection of Educators from both genders and a range of social and cultural backgrounds
- Ensure professional development is provided for staff and Educators to extend their knowledge of social justice, inclusive and anti-bias practices through training opportunities, resources and publications and discussions with peers
- Establish and maintain links with organisations that promote social justice and inclusion and /or provide specialist support or resources
- Ensure compliance with relevant state and commonwealth legislation to provide an inclusive and discrimination free environment
- In conjunction with FDC Educators maintain a SIP for each environment.

In relation to Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators:**When working with children:**

- Abide by their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Regulation and the relevant National Quality Standard in relation to inclusion and diversity
- Undertake training and the sharing of information regarding various cultures and multicultural programming
- Respect the rights and dignity of each child
- Provide an environment which meets individual's special needs
- Ensure all the children have a right to access all learning experiences, to equally participate in the program and to succeed as a learner
- View all children as competent with many strengths and abilities, and as initiators and active social constructors of their own learning
- Support children to interact with the environment and equipment in ways that children can identify
- Help children build connections with others and with their community
- Provide experiences that are complementary to children's home and community experiences
- Acknowledge the right of all children to maintain their language and culture while benefiting from good quality educational programs which take into account the cultural, linguistic, financial and religious diversity of the community at large
- Acknowledge that cultural diversity is a positive aspect of our everyday lives and integrate cultural awareness throughout all activities in the program
- Reflect an attitude of respect and positive appreciation for the differences within our community and society at large
- Present children with a variety of positive experiences, which are not based on gender role or cultural stereotypes, and by using a range of materials and equipment
- Avoid presenting negative or discriminatory images
- Build children's positive sense of self through identifying and responding to each child's strengths and learning styles
- Develop respectful and trusting relationships with children, so they can feel empowered and more open and respectful of others
- Provide access to specialised equipment and resources and appropriate support services as required
- Support children to identify and take action against unfairness or to other biased behaviour

When working with families:

- Ensure no child or family is discriminated against on the basis of their gender, culture, race, religion, ability, income, marital status or sexual preference
- Show sensitivity to and respect for the range of family structures including same sex parents, social values and child rearing practices evident in the service and the wider community
- Incorporate information about the family's background in meaningful ways to help ensure families feel welcome
- Share and exchange information relevant to the child
- Respect the family's home language and communication styles and use a range of verbal and written methods of communication, where possible, translate parent information into other languages
- Value multiple perspectives and empower families as decision makers about their child's learning and wellbeing
- Work through a family centred approach acknowledging family's best know their child
- Provide a program that responds to the individual strengths and interests of all children

When working with children with additional needs:

- Use an inclusive approach ensuring that all children, especially children with additional needs, have the same opportunities to participate in all experiences and all aspects of the program
- Seek specialised assistance/additional support to successfully include children with additional needs
- Maintain updated information relevant to particular disabilities, delays or giftedness relevant to the children in Family Day Care
- Plan an individualised Family Service Plan in collaboration with families and other professionals/ agencies, including Inclusion Support Agencies (ISA's)
- Plan experiences based on the child's strengths, talents, likes and dislikes and family priorities for their child
- Work collaboratively with other services to support the child's transition in to the next learning environment
- Ensure ongoing training to adapt programs resources and environments to provide successful inclusion
- Maintain a Strategic Inclusion Plan for each FDC environment.

Continual Monitoring and Improvement:

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Co-ordination Unit Staff accessing current relevant information
- Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems