



Factsheet for Families

Planned Experiences for Children

Planned experiences for children assist them to explore and experiment with language, relationships, ideas and equipment in ways that help them to learn about themselves and the world. A balanced service provides planned activities as well as many opportunities for spontaneous experiences based on children's interests.

Important Elements of Children's Experiences

Play

Joining in play where they can make choices, self-direct, and participate in spontaneous experiences is one of the key ways that children learn. Effective experiences recognise the significance of play and promote opportunities for children to engage in regular and meaningful play.

Evaluation

Staff and carers evaluate the effectiveness and value of the planned experiences to make sure that they are promoting the best possible outcomes for children. The most effective evaluation processes consider information gained from colleagues, families and the children themselves. Information is gained from children of all ages by watching, listening and interacting with them.

Planning

Staff and carers plan activities and experiences that reflect children's interests and support their learning and skill development. Staff and carers gain information to help them plan for children's interests by: listening to, observing and interacting with children and by exchanging information about children with colleagues, families and other professionals.

Flexibility

Planned experiences cover all aspects of children's activities at the service. Experiences need to be flexible and adaptable so that they are responsive to individual and groups of children's needs, as well as to factors such as weather or unexpected events.

What Areas of Children's Learning and Development do Planned Experiences Include?

- Physical development (including large and small muscle development)
- Language and literacy
- Personal and interpersonal skills
- Creativity and the expressive arts
- Problem solving, thinking and mathematical abilities

It is important to note that outside school hours care services care for children who are already attending a formal school program. Outside school hours care services need to balance their planned experiences to accommodate school age children's particular needs for extra curricular recreational and social activity, as well as time to relax before and after the school day.