Program Planning Philosophy

Our philosophy

The Hutchins School OSHC is a centre built upon the foundation of learning through play. Our art and craft program provides the opportunity to learn through play whilst working towards long term goals. Each weekly program targets a specific area of development, allowing and encouraging the children to learn and grow, while engaging in activities that are fun, interesting and stimulating. Many of our programs have been designed to be implemented over a week or fortnight, allowing the children to focus on a theme over consecutive days, and encouraging them to work towards long term goals.

Focus over consecutive days

By implementing programs over a longer period, the children are encouraged to focus over consecutive days and work daily towards a long term goal. Smaller tasks and projects are completed daily and are designed to cohesively contribute to a planned final activity. For example, as part of the Ben 10 / Pokémon Party program, children made Papier Mache masks over a number of days. These masks were then hung to dry for two days, painted white on the third, and decorated as Ben 10 or Pokémon characters on the fourth.

Gathering Information & Observations

Observations and evaluations are taken during art and craft activities. These notes are critical in the development of further programs, allowing us to tailor the activities provided to the specific needs and interests of the children in our care. Observations are designed to assess the developmental level of the children, noting the level of their skills, abilities and engagement with the experiences.

Evaluating Programs

The evaluation process is a powerful tool in assessing and gauging the value of previous experiences, and the success of their implementation. Staff are encouraged to utilise the evaluation process in order to best assess and meet the ongoing needs of the children.
After School Care

After School Care is seen as a time when the children in care can relax and unwind after a day in the classroom. Children are encouraged to socialise with one another, and share their day. Self-choice is actively promoted during this period. Activities, games and crafts are offered to the children, however, participation is based upon children’s preferences. Some activities and games are placed around the room for children’s use, while others are actively directed by staff. Naturally, not all children will engage in these activities in a constructive manner through their own initiative; staff are encouraged to guide these children toward finding activities that they enjoy, and are more likely to play productively with.

Children are actively encouraged to be responsible for the equipment that they use throughout the afternoon. All children are expected to treat the equipment of the centre with respect, to share with anyone who wishes to join in, and to pack up after they have finished, or before moving on to something else.

Each afternoon, staff will take children out of the immediate environment of the centre, to visit the top playground, Junior School playground, or oval. This is a time that allows children to expend their energy, and play active games and sports. Hutchins OSHC is an active member of the government’s Active After School Care program. Under this scheme, trained deliverers attend the centre once or twice a week, to provide and facilitate a range of physical activities with the children, such as soccer, football, hockey, golf, etc.

Records of the activities provided to the children are kept as part of the programming process. Brief evaluations are filled out, in order to keep track of the areas of development that are being focused on. These records are then used in future planning, and discussed at staff meetings, in order to provide an experience that is as beneficial and positive as possible.

Vacation Care

The emphasis in the program during Vacation Care is set firmly on fun. During this period, most children are in care because they are unable to be cared for by their parents over their holidays. With that in mind, we aim to provide a program that is packed full of fun – full of the kind of excursions and outings that parents would take their children on if they had the opportunity.
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Activities and excursions are planned with the aim of introducing some new experiences, and revisiting old favourites.

Excursions are a regular part of the holiday program. Excursions usually take place three times a week during holidays. We provide a range of experiences, from visits to the Fun Factory, Village Cinemas, and Woody’s Skate Centre, to bushwalks, barbeques and parks. The program aims to find the most exciting excursions possible, and to deliver them in a manner that is both fun and challenging for children to engage in.

Evaluation takes place at the end of each day, through an evaluation form that is filled out by a designated staff member. Brief details are recorded about the success of the activity, and suggestions for future excursions. In addition to this, at the end of each program, staff, children and parents are surveyed regarding their opinion of the program, and asked to list anything that they would like to see implemented in future programs. As with all aspects of the centre, children are encouraged to comment on anything that they like. These comments are used for future programming.

Links to Other Policies

This policy supports, or is related to the following documents:
- Behaviour Guidance
- Mandatory Reporting / Child Protection
- Kindness
- Parent Access
- Centre Philosophy
- Excursions
- Supervision
- Record Keeping
- Privacy and Confidentiality

Sources and Further Reading

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