

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE**

### **AUTHORISATION**

<b>POLICY TYPE:</b> <i>(Council or Operational)</i>	Operational
<b>POLICY LOCATION:</b> <i>(eg. Corporate, Engineering, etc.)</i>	Community Services
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b> <i>(by position title)</i>	Children Services Coordinator
<b>AUTHORISED BY:</b> <i>(GM or Director Title)</i>	Director Corporate and Community Services
<b>DATE ADOPTED:</b>	17 August 2021
<b>ADOPTED BY:</b> <i>(Manex or Council)</i>	Manex
<b>MINUTE NO:</b> <i>(If required)</i>	
<b>REVIEW DUE DATE:</b> <i>(Four years unless statutorily required sooner)</i>	July 2023
<b>REVISION NUMBER:</b>	

### **DOCUMENT HISTORY**

<b>VERSION NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS</b> <i>Include names of former policies that this policy will replace if applicable</i>	<b>AMENDED BY</b> <i>(Where required)</i>

### **REVIEW OF THIS POLICY**

This Policy will be reviewed within two (2) years from the date of adoption or as required in the event of legislative changes. The Policy may also be changed as a result of other amendment that are to the advantage that Council and in the spirit of this Policy. Any amendment to the Policy must be by way of a Council Resolution for all policies categorised as “Council” policies or the approval of the General Manager for all policies categorised as “Operational” policies.

## 1. Purpose:

Bland Shire Council Children Services Unit will provide an educational program that is based on the *Early Years Learning Framework and/or My Time Our Place*, meeting the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child attending the service. Educators will draw on their professional knowledge and their in depth knowledge of each child to choose appropriate teaching strategies and design an environment that will engage children in active learning.

## 2. Scope:

This policy document applies to all staff and Educators of the Bland Shire Council Children Services Unit and Bland Temora Family Day Care, along with children and families enrolled with Bland Shire Council Children Services Unit.

## 3. Outcomes:

We support a play based curriculum, based on supporting the dignity and rights of the child. Each child's current knowledge, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation for the program. Educators use intentional teaching strategies to extend and scaffold children's play based learning. A holistic approach to children's development is reflected through relevant Child Development theorists.

Bland Shire Council Children Services Unit believes that play is very important for children. Through play, babies and young children explore and learn to understand the world around them as they come to communicate, discover, imagine and create. When children play they are showing what they have learnt and what they are trying to understand. When children play they approach experiences with interest and empowerment. Educators observe this and extend upon their interest and needs to plan for children's experiences.

## 4. Roles and Responsibilities:

### The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide opportunities for Educators to attend regular professional development to maintain and enhance their knowledge about childhood education and care.

### The Educational Leader will:

- Provide information, resources and professional development to Educators to assist with the delivery of the curriculum and practice.
- Be available to talk to families of children in care about the approved learning framework.
- Support Educators in the delivery of an Education and Care Program.
- Support Educators to provide a program that is;
  - based on an approved learning framework;
  - delivered in accordance with that framework;
  - based on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child, taking into account the individuality of each child.
- Ensure Educators are working towards the learning outcomes with each child.
- Assist the Educator with EYLF and/or MTOP reflective practice.
- Ensure the Educator is participating in the cycle of planning – observing, planning, programming and reflection.
- Provide professional development and/or information opportunities on school readiness to families and Educators.

### **Educators will:**

- Adhere to the documented requirements of Regulation 74 whereby there is documented assessment of the child's development.
- Provide individual programs that are responsive to children's lives, interests and learning styles and promote each child's social, cultural, physical, emotional, intellectual, language and creative potential and meet individual children's play and relaxation needs.
- Undertake regular recorded observations of individual children (Vacation Care excluded) incorporating stages of development, children's interests, and learning and play experiences, relationships with children and staff, strengths and abilities, child's progress against the outcomes of the educational program and recommendations for program planning.
- Offer a range of physically active learning experiences to promote overall physical development and Fundamental Movement Skills.
- Ensure the individual children's interests and developmental progress is taken into account when planning the learning environment.
- Ensure critical reflection on children's learning and development, both individual and in groups, is regularly used to implement the program.
- Ensure each child's learning and development is assessed as part of an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting and evaluation.
- Display and where practical discuss the program to all families in care.
- Ensure each child is supported to participate in the program and each child's agency is promoted.
- Offer a balance of indoor and outdoor experiences each day allowing the opportunity for free choice.
- Provide activities to stimulate and develop each child's holistic developmental needs.
- Ensure the program including the routine offers a range of activities that are flexible and allows opportunity to build on children's discoveries or spontaneous interest throughout the day.
- If undertaking outings ensure they are planned to enrich children's learning. These outings need to be clearly linked to the program and be child focused.
- Provide adequate and sufficient equipment to support the program of activities taking into account the age, culture, number and interests of children.

### **In addition Family Day Care and Vacation Care Educators will:**

- Ensure opportunities for school aged children complement their school experiences and successes as well as their individual interests and home experiences.

### **Families will:**

- Be encouraged to have input into the program especially in relation to their own child's participation and in sharing aspects of their culture, skills and interesting experiences. The extent to which families wish to be involved will be respected.

### **Electronic Media in the Educational Program**

When Electronic Media is available for children's use at a Service the following strategies will apply:

- Any electronic media tool (including television) should be educational in nature and include any applications where clear learning outcomes can be identified.
- Each child's screen use will be limited to a specific time period.
- All children are provided with equal opportunity to access electronic media.

- Offer a balance of technology so that some technology can be used outside as well as inside and lends itself to physical movements and social, collaborative play.

## **5. Legislation and Supporting Documents:**

Education and Care Service National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Guide to the National Quality Framework 2018

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.

My Time, Our Place – The Framework for School Age Care in Australia

Munch and Move – Reducing Young Children’s Screen Time

<https://healthykids.nsw.gov.au/downloads/file/campaignsprogram/ReducingYoungChildrensScreenTime.pdf>

## **6. Relationship to Community Strategic Plan:**

This Policy supports Council’s Delivery Program Strategy DP4.2 Provide quality, accredited and affordable Education and Care Services within Bland Shire and surrounds (Bland Preschool, Family Day Care, Mobile Resource Unit, Vacation Care and Toy Library services)

## **7. Attachments:**

N/A