

SECTION 3

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

5.8 Multicultural Policy

Aim:

1. To promote the principle of fairness for all Australians, valuing the individual and their different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds.
2. To support the child and adult's self-esteem and pride in family, community, ethnic and linguistic heritage.
3. To acknowledge, value and promote the human diversity that exists within our families, centre, community and the world in general.

Process:

1. This policy is based on the following understandings of the term "culture".
 - Culture is learned in families and communities.
 - Cultures belong to groups of people.
 - Culture is shared ways of knowing, doing and believing.
 - Culture is dynamic.
 - The ways people meet their material and non-material needs is influenced by culture.
 - Language is a vital element of culture.
2. The Centre recognises that Australia is a culturally diverse society composed of people with different languages, beliefs and values. It is essential that:
 - As descendants of Australia's original inhabitants, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a special place in Australian culture. Therefore, special recognition and acknowledgment is to be given to Australia's indigenous cultures and the Centre will therefore support the wariness, acceptance and understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage, languages and identities.
 - Australia's cultural diversity is acknowledged in the development and practices of services for young children and their families.
 - The programs and learning experiences support the concept that there are many ways of understanding childhood and child development.
 - The Centre is inclusive of the diversity of cultures, languages and identities regardless of the cultural composition families attending the Centre.
3. The Centre recognises that the ability of different cultural groups within society to access children's services is not equal. Therefore it is essential that:
 - The Centre recognises that every child, family and staff member has a right to access early childhood services which support their cultural identity and their community.

- The programs and learning experiences are planned, implemented and evaluated through ongoing discussion with families and the wider community to reflect the diversity of that community.
 - Within the Centre, information is provided in a variety of ways, for example oral, visual and written.
 - Information about the Centre for families is accessible. This is facilitated by multilingual translations and/or interpreter services relevant to the families where needed.
4. The Centre will support each child's traditional family food habits and enhance children's awareness and acceptance of foods from all cultures. Therefore it is essential that:
- Children are exposed to food from different cultures in order to gain acceptance of these foods.
 - The Centre acknowledges families' food preferences, habits and customs.

SOURCE: Diversity Directions
ARMSU
Cultures, Cuisines and Child Care