

MEDIA RELEASE



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Early Years Learning Framework

At Churches of Christ Care's Withcott Early Childhood Centre, all educators are looking at and evaluating their programming to align practices with the Early Years Learning Framework.

We have looked at ways to inform families more effectively of what happens throughout their child's day, the activities they engage in and the interactions the children have between each other. Our new curriculum highlights all the interactions, experiences, activities, routines, and events that occur to foster children's learning and development each day.

We as educators attend training and conferences that relate to our working with children and families so that we can offer relevant and up-to-date care.

We also set up indoor and outdoor learning environments that are welcoming spaces which reflect and enrich the lives of children and families, are vibrant and flexible and respond to the interests and abilities of each child, and cater for different learning styles.

Our number one priority is to build relationships with each child. To do this we need to think about how children are *Belonging*, *Being* and *Becoming* within our curriculum. We need to continually ask ourselves, are we achieving this? Some of the questions we consider are:

- *Belonging* - How do we help children to belong when they start at our service? How can they see their interests and the people who are important to them reflected in the environment?
- *Being* - How much uninterrupted time do children have to play? Are children involved in program decision making?
- *Becoming* - Do we use the children's interests and strengths to guide planning for further learning? Are our learning environments stimulating, challenging and supportive? Do we take advantage of teachable moments and intentional teaching opportunities to extend and enrich children's experiences and learning?

Our early childhood staff believe that our Open Play Based program already has a lot of the elements of the Early Years Learning Framework. If you would like more information contact Churches of Christ Care's Withcott Early Childhood Centre on (07) 4630 3722.

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For further information, please contact:

Ashleigh James
Communications Coordinator
Ph: (07) 3363 1747

Desley Millwood

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Communications and Marketing Manager
Ph: (07) 3327 1692 or 0419 486 943

About Churches of Christ Care

Churches of Christ Care is a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland—a group of churches that is part of the worldwide Christian church.

We strive to create an inclusive, caring, compassionate environment that meets our clients' needs without discrimination or prejudice. Everyone is welcome to call on our help regardless of their religious background.

Churches of Christ Care is one of Queensland's leading providers of early childhood, child protection, affordable housing, retirement living and aged care services. We are a not-for-profit organisation that supports more than 27,000 clients each year in urban, rural and remote areas.

We operate 137 services throughout Queensland with the support of more than 2,800 staff and over 700 volunteers.

Churches of Christ Care is built on a foundation of Christian values, commitment to quality care, and trust and respect for clients and the community.