

ADDITIONAL NEEDS POLICY

AIM:

To provide access for children with additional needs.

To help children and families to understand, accept and value the diversity in children's needs and abilities.

To provide high quality family support and early intervention programs for children and families.

EXPLANATION:

All children have special or additional needs at some time. Children have additional needs when they have problems, which affect their development, health, well-being and ability to play and learn (Palmer, 1998, p2). We believe that every child has the right to learn; it is appropriate for every child to be educated with their peers. Children [will] recognise that regardless of an individual's talents and limitations, everyone has a role and everyone can contribute to one another's learning and growth (Action for Citizens With Disabilities, Inc., 1998, p.24).

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Get to know the child well. Observe them carefully to find out what we can do, what they enjoy, and what they are interested in. This forms the basis for program development.
- Gather information about the child from as many sources as possible. Talk to the parents about their child. Seek permission to contact the professionals involved in the care or treatment of the child. Staff may require training in appropriate skills and equipment.
- Use play to encourage all areas of the child's development. Do not focus your attention only on the areas that cause the child's problems.
- Give children opportunities to make choices and the chance to work out for themselves the best way to do things. Independence and autonomy help children develop self-esteem.
- Our service has sloping ramps from the verandah to the outdoor area for improved access, plus a handrail for one of the sets of stairs. There is direct access from the car park available to the lower room.
- Our sandpit has low sides and is easily accessible.
- Our trained staff can make appropriate modifications to encourage participation in experiences by children of various abilities.
- We have a variety of information on accessing support services and equipment available. Some of these are:
 1. Special Needs Directory, Northern Sydney Area Department of Community Services
 2. Promoting Family Wellbeing, Family Support Services Association, NSW Department of Community Services
 3. Child Link - www.childlink.com.au
 4. Queenscliff Health Centre
 5. Chatswood Assessment Centre