

INCLUSION

Explanation:

Somerset Puddleduck Playcentre recognises that all children are individuals. It is important that the Centre's programmes and resources recognise and meet these individual needs.

Gender

Research shows that children have developed firmly established gender stereotypes by the age of three years. These beliefs are conveyed to children through television, radio, written media, electronic media and, more importantly, by the significant people in their life. These stereotypical ideas can be strong enough to restrict children's participation in experiences. Every child will be offered equal opportunities and encouragement to participate regardless of gender.

Special Needs

The term "Special Needs" refers to children who have developmental needs that set them apart from same-aged peers. This may include those children with delayed development and those with accelerated development. Somerset Puddleduck Playcentre does not discriminate against families or children based on any area/s of special need.

Culture/Religion/Social Origin

The Centre recognises that our society is composed of people from diverse backgrounds. Our community may not reflect this diversity however we recognise that children need to be aware of and understand cultural diversity.

Implementation:

- Staff are aware of the way in which they treat individual children, with regard to language, attitude, assumptions and expectations
- Staff assist children and parents to understand and address personal bias.
- No child will be denied access to the service based upon gender, abilities, religion, culture or social origin.
- The Centre will provide positive role models and avoid using gender biased language
- Play equipment and resources will be non-stereotypical.
- Children will be encouraged to explore and challenge discriminatory attitudes.
- Experiences will be planned based on individual children's needs and interests
- With parental permission, staff will seek assistance from external agencies when necessary.
- Parents will be encouraged to share their cultural diversity and to participate in the programme.

Standard: **5.1.1 b) Programming**

Reviewed, Updated & Approved:
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