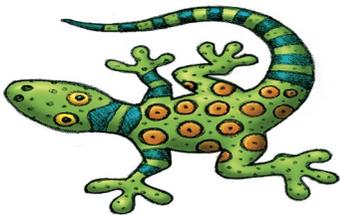


An Emergent curriculum is quite different from the standard adult imposed teachings that we are accustomed to. Emergent Curriculum is planning the focus of learning or what happens in the classroom, as a result of interaction between teachers and children, with both contributing ideas and reacting to them to build on appealing and worthwhile units of study.

Emergent curriculum is socially and intellectually engaging and personally meaningful to children. Educators follow the children's lead and then introduce new and exciting activities to sustain their interests and deepen their explorations.

This is a method that requires genuine responsiveness and attention to children rather than just educator's goals. Our emphasis is focused on developing social skills, problem solving skills, fostering independence and building a foundation for lifelong learning.



Where Do Ideas For Emergent Curriculum Come From?

The children provide the ideas that form the foundation for the units of study that are prepared, organized, coordinated and facilitated by the teachers.

a b c d e f g ... 

Other sources of ideas include;

- a) Things, events and people in the environment.
- b) Developmental tasks to be mastered at each developmental stage.
- c) Family and cultural influences.
- d) Issues that arise in the course of living together day-to-day.
- e) Serendipity, or, what just happens.
- f) Values held for children's learning at Bulimba Childcare.
- g) Adult interests and passions.
- h) Curriculum resource materials are not the primary source of ideas but they can be adapted to the setting and children's interests.

Documentation and Observation of your Child's Growth

By documenting your child's actions and behaviours, it provides children with the ability to remember and understand the process of their learning and provides you, the parent, with concrete representations of your child's growth and development.

Documentation provides educators with the ability to create an environment that will enrich learning activities and provide opportunities to represent children's learning cycles.

Some of the most effective ways to conduct observations and to document growth are:

Educator's notes (learning stories) - through these methods educators can record children's development for long periods of time. They can then use this to find new activities and materials that will lead children to sustain deeper interests and construct new understandings of the world around them.

Photographs - pictures can provide children with wonderful memories, give educators visual aides when planning future activities, and provide parents with opportunities to view their children at play



Children's Artwork - this becomes a visual timeline, if you will, showing where children's abilities were and where they are now.

Documentation and observations of children's interests and experiences is the basis, and ongoing process, of the Emergent curriculum.

Activities Planned Through Webbing

After observing and documenting children's interests and curiosities the educators can plan relevant experiences to help children explore their ideas. Thinking about possible experiences that might support children's thoughts is often done through a process known as webbing.



When we consider what activities to set out and how to arrange the classroom's physical space we keep in mind that the Centre Goals are:

- To provide the children with a caring, stimulating and safe environment
- To enhance a positive social atmosphere where the child will gain confidence
- To provide the children with an exciting, challenging and applicable educational program
- To encourage children to be independent, questioning, resourceful, caring and cooperative
- To encourage a close communicative relationship between parents
- To keep abreast of all changes and developments in early childhood education so as to provide excellent and dynamic child care



Creating a Web

Creating a web involves the educators taking the children's ideas and brainstorming about where a particular idea might go and listing the potential related connections that could be made. One idea leads to another, which leads to another, and so on; rather like a big spider web.

A web will always include more ideas than can be followed and will rule out ideas due to lack of interest or appropriateness.

The web will help educators remain open to possibilities and begin preparing and planning for activities that might give opportunities for learning. It serves as a starting place for educators to focus their thinking.

The web will also allow for more creative and playful thinking from educators rather than the traditional linear and logical thinking. This will allow for your child's mind to soar to places that it may never have reached with past methods and to participate in activities that have been solely created for them.

Webs are developed and added to constantly, based on the interests of the children. When the children's interests change, the web will reflect that change.



Proudly Presents...

The Emergent Curriculum

A Guide For Parents

