

Emergent Curriculum

Our goal is to create a positive learning environment where children can have fun while learning. We believe in providing a warm, caring, safe environment where children participate in varied activities such as creative activities, music, story time and outdoor activities.

Over the past few years Children's Circle Daycare has adopted an Emergent Curriculum approach to learning. We believe this approach is the most developmentally appropriate and is consistent with children's interests and learning.

What is Emergent Curriculum?

Emergent Curriculum is a way of planning curriculum that is based on the children's interest and passion at a certain point of time. A particular interest of a child can be sparked and can last days to a week, even weeks to months. It is a child-directed approach to implementing curriculum. "The goal of Emergent Curriculum is to respond to every child's interests. Its practice is open-ended and self-directed" (Jones, 2012, p.67).

What is Play and what is the importance of Play?

There are many different types of play. Play includes imitating, exploring, pretend play, and socio-dramatic play. "Play is how children make sense of the world" (Bertrand, et al., 2007, p.15). Play engages children's attention when it offers a challenge that is within the child's capacity to master a particular skill (Bertrand, et, al., 2007).

Role of the Educator

In an Emergent Curriculum Environment, Early Childhood Educators are not only nurturers, they are partners, facilitators and co-learners who have a deep understanding of developmentally appropriate practices (Bertrand, et al., 2007). Educators understand individual differences and arrange their room so that children can explore at their own pace. The curriculum matches the strengths and interests that children demonstrate.

Observation and Documentation

"Young children know better. They don't learn because we teach them. They learn when their interest is caught" (Stacey, 2009, p.10).

We learn best about children by watching them in action and taking note of the learning they are experiencing. Observing and documenting is an important aspect of being an Early Childhood Educator. The purpose of observing and documenting children's experiences is to:

- Deepen educators understanding about each child's thinking and development
- Help children to reflect on and make sense of their own experiences.

Parents are encouraged to review and add to their child's observation journals.

The Benefits of Emergent Curriculum

- Children's interests serve as the basis for the programs development
- Expression of individual interests and strengths

- Unique learning needs are supported
- Individual support opportunities for each child
- Increased opportunities to explore more in depth on the interests of the children

ELECT Document - Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT)

We use the ELECT document as our framework to support curriculum within our classrooms.

ELECT is based on six main principles:

Principle 1: Every child development sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behavior and health.

Principle 2: Partnerships with families and communities strengthen the ability of early childhood settings to meet the needs of young children.

Principle 3: Demonstrating respect for diversity, equity and inclusion is a prerequisite for optimal development and learning.

Principle 4: A planned curriculum supports early learning.

Principle 5: Play is a means to early learning that capitalizes on children's natural curiosity and exuberance.

Principle 6: Knowledge, responsive early childhood professionals are essential.

Family Involvement

It is essential for parents to become involved in their child's learning experiences. Curriculum content is an extension of home/family life. We want to work in partnership with families, and build relationships that enable children to enjoy and benefit from early learning opportunities. Increased family involvement is encouraged at Children's Circle Daycare. This is a great opportunity to share with the teachers any interests your child has expressed at home.