

Reflections

Educator: Samantha

Date: 9/09/17

Room: Preschool

Daily: Weekly: Fortnightly: Monthly:

Collect Information - Think About Aspects Of Practice

Describe what is happening. Why? How?

The educators working in a long day care setting were concerned about a few of the newly enrolled preschoolers whose families have recently arrived as refugees from Pakistan. Both parents and children are finding morning separation very difficult. The children are refusing to eat during meal times, not engaged with experiences on offer throughout the day and do not settle well during rest time.

Question/Analyse - Challenge Expectations and Analyse Current Practices

What can be improved? What is the significance? How do you feel about it?

None of the educators had any experience working with refugee children and families. Some educators thought the children will settle over the coming weeks once they get use to coming to the centre and when they start forming relationships with other children and room educators. Most educators were also not familiar with Pakistani culture, beliefs and traditions. While discussing strategies one educator mentioned "In the past our transition and orientation procedures have worked well for all of us including the children and families, now it's not working and I don't think waiting until they get use to us is the answer".

Plan - Decide Whether Change Is Necessary

How might things be done differently? What changes will you make? Strategies?

Additional educators to be placed on the morning roster to welcome and assist children to settle in

Facilitate an interpreter to discuss transition concerns with the families

Offer meals that are familiar to the children – as parents for meal suggestions which can be prepared or served to the children

Adapt familiar sleeping practices with those from home within the centre

Extend and enhance educator's knowledge on refugees, their experiences, impact on children and families

Act/Do - Take Action As A Result Of Reflecting, Questioning and Analysing

What happened? How did it happen? Did you achieve your objective?

The strategies put in place had positive effects on both children and families. The settling in process has become a lot easier since having an extra educator available for support. The translator has been extremely helpful in developing open communication between educators and families and enabling parents to voice their concerns. Meal times and rest periods have also had positive outcomes as we adapt familiarity between the centre and home.

Reflect/Review

How could you use these insights? What else do you need to know?

The educators within the centre will continue with their long term goals and progressively make changes to practices and policies (if required) as they develop their understandings from both internal and external influences.

