

The Computer Area



Many children today have access to and are familiar with computers. In today's society, it's important for us to be computer-literate and enable all children to become comfortable with computers.

Children, who have access to a computer and are encouraged in computer play, discover open ended play that are both rewarding and enriching. The computer area should allow children to learn in a variety of ways, at a pace that meets their individual needs.

Computer programs and software for children, promote making choices, creativity and solving problems. It also encourages the children to use their fine motor skills by incorporating simple keyboard and mouse movements within the children's programs.

Benefits of Computer Play

Children benefit from computer play in the same ways as they do from other developmental activities. By considering the needs of each child in your program, you can help children grow in many ways. Listed below are some suggested learning objectives that support a child's overall development.

- Children develop perseverance (seeing a program / task through to completion).
- Enables children to develop pride (print completed work).
- Encourage children to work co-operatively with others (working in pairs on the computer).
- Helps children develop early reading skills (matching words to graphics).
- Identify and sort objects (using programs that develop classification skills).
- Improves children's visual skills (following moving objects on the screen).
- Extends children's creativity (using programs that encourage free exploration).
- Allows children to understand cause and effect relationships (seeing what happens when certain keys are pressed).

Computers are an important part of today's society and they do provide children with a wider range of developmental learning skills. The software and programs that are available for children encourages them to learn, explore, create and imagine across all developmental areas. The computer area is an essential part to the children's overall development.

Linking to the Early Years Learning Framework

- **1.2** – Children develop their emerging, autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency.
- **2.4** – Children develop a sense of belonging to groups & communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active participation.
- **3.1** – Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.
- **4.3** – Children transfer and adapt what they have learnt from one context to another.
- **5.5** – Children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking.

QIAS Principle 4.4.3 – Staff promote each child's language and literacy abilities.