

The Library Area



A library is an essential part of a early childcare setting. It provides children with an opportunity to listen to stories and poems, explore books and a variety of reading materials. The library area can include: a writing centre and listening area with story tapes for the children to listen to, felt boards and puppets. These materials along with storytelling by the teachers and children promote children's language and cognitive development. It also facilitates the growth and development in other areas of science, maths, history etc.

By reading stories or providing books to the children on a particular topic (such as a birth of a sibling or visiting the doctor) helps children to understand that their feelings, questions and problems are common and provides them with the self confidence in dealing with their feelings or questions.

Benefits of the Library Area

A library area can be used to accomplish a wide range of learning objectives. Listed below, are some suggested learning objectives that supports a child's overall development.

- Increases a child's vocabulary (learning the names of various objects from a picture book).
- Children begin to recognize objects, colours and shapes (pointing to objects on a felt board or in books).
- Enables children to understand sequence (opening up a book and turning the pages in order).
- Develops children's storytelling abilities (creating a story with drawings or scribbles).
- Encourages children to recognize site words (recognizing own name and familiar words).
- Develops fine motor skills (writing / drawing with a texta).
- Strengthens children's eye muscles (following pictures and words in a book as it is being read aloud).
- Children develop phonetic awareness (recognizing rhyming sounds and thinking of other words with that sound).

A library area is important to the overall program for developing literacy skills in children. It is important to encourage each and every child with their language and literacy development by: asking a child questions while looking at pictures together, asking a child to predict what will happen next in the story and to encourage a child to repeat words, rhymes and phrases that have been memorized. As children learn to love books, it helps children to develop their own language and literacy development.

Linking to the Early Years Learning Framework

- 1.1** - Children feel safe, secure and supported.
- 2.4** – Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.
- 3.1** - Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.
- 4.3** – Children transfer and adapt what they learned from one context to another.
- 5.2** – Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from those texts.

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