



DUNTROON COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.

INCLUSION POLICY

What is Inclusion?

Inclusion is recognising the individual qualities with each person. Inclusion is a right. It begins with community recognition and acceptance of difference and diversity. By acknowledging and valuing difference and diversity in the Playschool Program, we highlight the importance of each one of us being accepted and valued as unique and special individuals.

Inclusive programs include opportunities for all children, regardless of cultural difference or ability to actively participate in all aspects of the program and daily routines.

The following points, although not exhaustive, will underpin the Duntroon Playschool Inclusion Policy

1. Development of strong partnerships between parents/families and staff is important in creating a supportive environment where the child's best interests are met. Communication, involving daily interaction and shared decision making, provides the foundation of strong partnerships.
2. The physical environment will be welcoming places for children, families and staff. The environment will convey the message that everyone is welcome and that difference and diversity is valued.
3. Getting to know each child individually is the starting point for program planning. Each child comes with their own unique experiences, strengths, skills and needs. When these are identified then individual plans can be designed.

Practical suggestions to create inclusive environments:

- use of visual signs eg Boardmaker
- use of signing eg Makaton
- use of photographs
- create a welcoming environment
- contacting services such as the ACT Inclusion Support Agency and Noah's Ark to source relevant information
- providing information and resources to educate other members of the Centre.

The Duntroon Community Centre Management Committee is to be made aware of children with additional or cultural needs enrolling in the Playschool Program. On an individual basis, the Committee, parents and staff will coordinate to plan and implement strategies to achieve the best possible outcomes for the child concerned.

As at Nov 10