

Children with Additional Needs



Policy

We will endeavour to provide a unique opportunity to reduce the inequalities of socio-economic circumstances and disability.

Background

Current research indicates that inclusion and early intervention programs may significantly assist children in their overall development and future learning outcomes. Janelle Street Centre endeavours to comply with the Convention on the Rights of Children as outlined in Article 23 which states:

1. *Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.*
2. *Parties ensure the extension, subject to available resources, to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child.*

The inclusion of children with disabilities in our Centre with supported and targeted programs aids all stakeholders in reducing bias and prejudice and encourages awareness of individual differences. It can enrich the lives of the children involved and provide them with opportunities to extend their skills, experiences, and development. Families can benefit from using child care facilities by having respite from the daily care of their child.

Practices

At Janelle Street Centre we:

Actively promote individual opportunities for acceptance, belonging and participation within the community by allowing and encouraging children to form friendships, build social skills, develop positive attitudes and share experiences with others of varied ability and background;

Accommodate a child with an additional need based upon the availability of sessions, facilities and resources to meet their individual needs, as well as the safety, and needs of other children currently enrolled and staff employed;

Consult with staff and other professionals to ensure details of disability or disadvantage necessary to ensure appropriate support and programming is communicated clearly;

Seek assistance, guidance and where possible, financial funding from recognized inclusive support agencies to promote the development of skills in disabled children;

Utilise the services of an additional worker by enabling the additional worker to focus on all the children within the room

- Ensuring that the additional worker is able to work with all children within the Room Group to foster inclusiveness and integration;
- Seeking and providing regular feedback between the Centre, specialists, support agencies and home to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of management strategies and developmental opportunities for the child; and
- Regularly communicate with families and specialists to ensure we consistently meet the needs and aid in the development of the children with a disability.

Sources

www.cecqa.gov.au (accessed October 12, 2023)

<https://childaustralia.org.au/> (accessed October 12, 2023)

www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention (accessed October 12, 2023)

www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au (accessed October 12, 2023)

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