



Developmental Needs Policy

As per Early Learning and Child Care Act and Regulation, the following developmental needs of children must be met, promoted and nurtured through the program planning. The Early Learning and Child Care Programming Plan provides best practice example that Ridge Kids Playcare strives to incorporate.

Mental Needs: need to interact with both peers and adults, explore, observe, know and understand and to develop language and listening skills, engage in a safe positive environment and be confident. To meet these needs, Educators must encourage nurturing and positive relationships, provide children with materials and activities that stimulate their language, listening and observational skills and provide times of the day or activities and/ or materials which encourage social development and social interaction.

Emotional Needs: need to feel accepted, respected and secure. Educators are to provide an attentive, safe, structured and connected environment where children can belong and build positive self-esteem. A place where children's ideas are heard and respected, and children's individuality and independent learning is encouraged. Educators help children learn to cope with frustrations and express emotions appropriately, supporting emotional intelligence

Spiritual Needs: need for creative self expression, invention, imagination, discovery, experimentation and to find meaning, purpose, structure, and value in their life. To meet these needs, Educators provide open ended material and focus on process instead of outcome; and think of and accept more than one solution to a problem. The program plan addresses and helps to develop a child's positive self-concept (what the child believes about themselves; their self image) through accepting a valuing their family and their culture and through providing activities which allow children to be appropriately successful in their endeavors. Each child will be celebrated for their uniqueness and in consultation with Parents/Guardians, will have opportunities for cultural development and growth.

Physical Needs: need to develop age-appropriate physical skills and participate in adequate activity, sensory experiences, nutrition, rest and health and safety. To meet these needs, Educators must provide time in the day for activities which develop both gross and fine motor skills through large muscle activities and manipulation of small materials as well as perceptual motor skills (i.e. Body awareness, directional awareness, sensory



development, body development and coordination). Educators will also encourage a safe and healthy environment with appropriate rest and nutrition.

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