

Early Childhood Education and Care



Industry Immersion


Tuesday 17th May

10am Kaniva - 12noon Goroke

23 Baker St Kaniva 9 Compston St Goroke

WSM

VET
cluster

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Benefits of studying Early Childhood and why it matters

The early childhood sector is undergoing a huge boom. With the introduction of three year old kindergarten and more people needing childcare for their children, the industry is in desperate need of passionate, motivated workers.

The change to the model to work in the industry means that starting to train while still at school has become a great way to give yourself a head start. In 2023 Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care will become a prerequisite to the diploma. This is great news for young people wanting to work in the industry, as this certificate is available through the VETDSS program. Students undertaking the course will need to complete a bridging course at the end of the two years study at school to gain the full certificate. RTOs will offer this as a short course. This will mean upon leaving school students will be able to gain employment in the industry

Preschool Counts

There are a few different reasons why preschool leads to all kinds of positive outcomes later on in life. A jump start on learning is only one of these.

The other reasons have to do with emotional coping, health, and interaction with others.

A high-quality program by qualified educators offers children a range of learning experiences and activities that are both stimulating and fun. Children's learning and curiosity will be encouraged through experiences and activities, such as exploring the natural world, being exposed to new ideas and solving problems.

Children will be able to:

- learn to work with others and make friends through group activities and cooperative play
- express their creativity, for example, through dance, movement and art
- build their communication skills by listening to and having conversations with the educators and other children
- develop the skills that they need for reading, writing and mathematics.

Play Is an Essential Part of Early Childhood Education

Playtime is a way for children to unwind, yes. But it's also an excellent way for them to learn the things that aren't taught in classrooms.

The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights even recognizes play as a right that every child deserves. It's essential for mental development as well as social development, and adults can't always design the "perfect" playtime scenario.

The beauty of play is its sense of freedom. When children feel comfortable making their own fun, they explore new parts of themselves.

Children Learn From Other Children

There are lots of different theories about how children learn social cues and interpersonal skills. But almost all of them place heavy importance on interactions with others their age.

We're All Along for the Ride

Early childhood education is full of surprises, but the right environment will give children the support they need to face whatever comes their way.



PATHWAYS

There are a number of ways you can enter the Early Childhood sector. Choose the one that suits you the best.

TAFE

Diploma Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)
on the 'Free TAFE' list
2 years to complete
online or on campus study available
from 2023 the Cert III will be a prerequisite for this course

UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood & Primary)
4 years to complete
online study available
or on campus
ATAR of 70 required

VET ECEC

VETDSS- Cert III Early Childhood Education and Care Partial Completion
(Short Bridging Course to complete)
2 years, one day a week +
120 hours SWL
study as part of VCE or VCAL
Students can then go on to complete the Diploma while employed if they choose.

PATHWAY EXAMPLE

VETDSS
Cert III ECEC

ECEC
Bridging Course

TAFE DIPLOMA
Early Childhood

Bachelor
Education



Program Samples

THE EYLF PLANNING CYCLE

(Early Years Learning Framework)

Reflect on the outcomes of the learning experiences. Have the child's interests, cultural backgrounds and abilities been enhanced or developed? Has the child gained a further knowledge and understanding of the interest or experience that was observed. Is there anything that could have been done differently to improve on the outcome of the learning experience? Use this reflection to plan for any future learning experiences or intentional teachings.



Gather information about the child's interests, family back grounds, cultural beliefs, abilities, strengths and weaknesses.



Ask questions to further your knowledge of the child and encourage growth and development within the child. Question what they are doing and why they are doing it. Promote chances for further thought and extension of learning. Give the child the opportunity to broaden their understandings or discover more about the experiences being observed.



Put your plan into action. Use the information that you have gathered to create meaningful experiences for the child. Put into place your intentional teaching and learning experiences specifically designed to further your child's understandings and experiences with the interests or actions observed.

How can you extend on this learning? What other learning is possible? How can families, communities, outcomes, practices and principles be included in the extension of learning? Planning for individual or group activities, resources needed pedagogy involved.

www.earlyyearslearningresources.com.au

Data..... What do we know? How do we know this?
Picture, narrative, child's voice, parent's voice, discussions, meeting, observed happenings.

Jim's mother said he has always loved trains, he gets excited when he sees one moving on the tracks outside there home. He love Thomas the Tank Engine, and he's always got a train in his pocket. Jim is just beginning to show some interest in numbers and counting. He counts to six but routinely misses out 5. Jim prefers playing with the trains to art. He pays little attention to drawing and never wants to paint

Goals to achieve based on Data

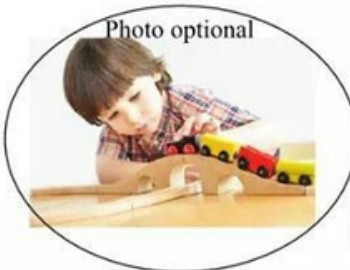
- *Counting to 10 successfully
- *Helping Jim find enjoyment in creative expression... painting , drawing, collage, etc

Child or Group name/s: JIM 3yrs 4months
Date:

Act/Do

Plan/ where to from here

How can we extend on either the learning gained in this plan? eg counting was the goal and Jim has counted to ten, how do we extend his counting to 20? Or if the plan was based on Jim's interest in trains how do we introduced different learning directions, for instance encouraging Jim to draw or paint by using his interest in trains to promote the learning?



Experiences offered, invitations to plan, changing the environment to promote the desired learning, interactions with others/community:

- * Resource more trains to make more than ten to count.
- *Recycle packaging and assist Jim to build a train with ten wheels, count them with him
- *Show Jim how train wheels can make designs on paper when rolled through wet paint.
- *Teach Jim a train song with rhyming.
- *Read Jim a book about a train with rich and rare language

Reflect/Review

What was positive about the planned experiences etc.
Was there any disadvantage?
What could have gone better?
What would you change?
Did the plan meet the needs and expectations of the child? Did the plan meet the needs/expectations of the educator?

Analyse the learning achieved

- *Links to the EYLF
- *Links to MTOP
- *Links to learning domains
- *What did we see being learnt?



Case Studies

EARLY CHILDHOOD

"The first five years have so much to do with how the next 80 turn out."
Bill Gates Sr - co-founder of Microsoft



"Every child is gifted. They just unwrap their packages at different times."
unknown author.



"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning."
Fred Rogers - creator of a children's television program that ran over 30 years



"The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn."
Maria Montessori - Italian educator and physician



"What a child can do today with assistance, she will be able to do by herself tomorrow."
Lev Vigotsky 1896-1934 child psychologist



Gracie Elliott

Director & Teacher at Kaniva Kindergarten

Meet Gracie.

Gracie says one of the best things about working in the early childhood sector is the children. She says it is very rewarding watching their skills and knowledge grow.

Gracie had been working as a Teacher's Aide and studying to become a teacher, when she completed a placement in a kindergarten. At this point it became clear to her that this was the industry she wanted to work in. Gracie changed her degree to focus on Early Childhood. Upon graduating she gained employment with the West Wimmera Shire and is now the Director of the Kaniva Kindergarten. Gracie says the most challenging thing about her job are the days with the longer kinder sessions. These have been implemented to better prepare the children for school and although Gracie says these can be challenging, the benefits far outweigh any issues. A rest period has been introduced to help the children re-energize for the remainder of the day. Gracie likes to arrive early to ensure the kindergarten is set up and organised for when the children arrive. As sessions are planned for indoor and outdoor experiences, it is important that all equipment and activities are ready to go directly from one thing to the next. Developing relationships with families is also an important part of being a kinder teacher so photos and writing up observations need to be included in the day as well.

Gracie would encourage anyone who loves children and has some patience, to consider this career. She says watching the children learn through play is so rewarding. As Walt Disney stated "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

Tina Hayden

Teacher at Goroke Kindergarten

Tina started working in the Early Childhood sector at the age of 47. She says she has now found her true passion. Helping shape little ones into the best they can be is truly rewarding and can have a life long impact on their lives.



Tina says one of the most important things she does throughout the day is to make sure every child feels that they are important. Small children need a well planned day with a proactive approach so you can be prepared for what ever may come. This gives you the tools you need to give every individual child attention and care. Knowing that she is making a difference in the children's lives keeps Tina motivated and passionate about her role. The work is hard, but so rewarding she says. The change to introduce three year olds into the system came with its own challenges and made Tina rethink her program. The younger children have different needs so the whole program had to be redeveloped. This has been one of the biggest challenges Tina has faced so far. But once again, the rewards are significant and well worth all the effort. The ability to work with the children for a year before you need to start getting them ready for schools is very advantageous. Tina loves nothing more than to see a child in town who has gone on to school a year or two ago and them run up to her and ask if they can have a 'Tina hug'. This just goes to prove how positive the kindergarten experience is for a child and how much the experiences are valued and remembered by those who attend. A quote from Dr Seuss says it best; "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."