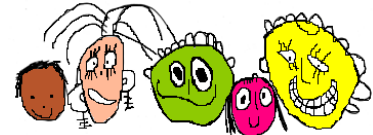


# Hamilton Community Pre-School



*"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect"*

## Information Sheets for Parents

### ***Child Directed Learning***

#### **National Quality Standard – Quality Area 1**

**Element 1.2.3 – Child Directed Learning:** Each child's agency is promoted, enabling them to make choices and decisions that influence events and their world.

At Hamilton Community Pre-School, educators respect and understand the importance of the children having a sense of agency. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states "children have a right to be active participants in all matters affecting their lives". In the EYLF, agency is defined as being able to make choices and decisions to influence events and to have an impact on one's world. Supporting children's agency is educator's recognising that children have a right to make choices and decisions, and can initiate their own learning. This is embedded in our daily curricula, by recording the children's voices. It is also evident in the children's learning journals.

Child-directed play and learning occurs when children lead their learning through exploring, experimenting, investigating and being creative in ways that they initiate and control. Activities that lead to a state of flow are child-directed, meaning children take charge of their own learning by exploring topics that they choose and are personally meaningful to them. Child-directed learning environments motivate children to learn because they are engaging in an activity for the sake of the experience

Educator's role in child-directed play and learning is to observe what the child knows and understands, based on what they make, write, draw, say and do. Then we can use that information to plan for further learning, by setting up developmentally appropriate learning environments, or by selecting specific materials or toys for children to use. Asking exploratory questions, such as "Why do you think that didn't work?" or "What is another way to use this material?" is also important to deepen children's understanding of and curiosity about the world around them. By doing this, educators are not only facilitating the children's play but also extending their knowledge on a topic of interest

This is supported through educators by: -

- Using intentional teaching
- Including children in genuine decision-making
- Arranging activities, routines and the physical environment so the children have a range of opportunities to make choices about what they will do and how they will do it
- Providing children with the opportunity to make choices in circumstances where their decisions will be able to be accepted.
- Taking a step back and critically reflecting on, "Do I need to decide for children?"
- Responsive interactions
- Providing a variety of resources for the children to choose from and allow them to make choices independently of adults