



Liverpool Family Day Care provides quality child care and education in the homes of registered Educators. Educators are recruited and supported by the qualified staff at our Coordination Unit. The service recognises that children learn through play, and we use the Early Years Learning Framework, in partnership with parents, to develop learning programs responsive to children's ideas, interests, strengths and abilities.

Target groups

We provide care and education for children (aged from birth to 12 years), of working parents and mothers and fathers who are studying or training with a view to returning to work. Care is also available for parents who require respite care.

The program is based in Miller, in a location that is easily accessible to families living in the Liverpool Local Government area. Families contact the service directly and we match them with Educators who are most appropriate to their needs. Parent support agencies also refer families, with priority of access given to those families referred due to a child being considered at risk of serious abuse or neglect. At the beginning of 2011 there were 105 Educators registered, 879 families enrolled and 1266 children who attended care, either on a regular or casual basis.

Service activities

Educators provide a safe, nurturing environment for children in small groups of up to seven. Activities are planned in consultation with parents, and based on the interests and needs of the children in each group. Coordination Unit staff recruit, support and train Educators. Our Educators receive home visits from qualified Child Development Officers who support them to meet the requirements of government legislation, provide a high-quality service for the children and their families, and develop plans for professional growth.

We run a daily playgroup program aimed at further developing the social, emotional and cognitive skills of children, while providing support and guidance for the Educators. Holiday activity days are held to support the development and interests of the school-aged children in care.

Training opportunities are regularly provided for Educators.

Feedback from individual Educators, parents and staff is considered when planning professional development opportunities.

Outcomes

Outcomes for children include increased developmental skills. In addition, parents gain the ability to participate in employment, education or training, thus enhancing families' opportunities to achieve economic wellbeing. Enhancement of an Educator's ability to provide quality care also assists them to identify areas of concern in a child's development.

The service has seen an increase in the number of children referred to support agencies. Families are able to access early childhood intervention to address any concerns for their child's development prior to starting school. Educators develop nurturing relationships with the children, which has a positive impact on their self-esteem. One parent commented about her child's Educator "Her approach and personality has made a big impact on my daughter and she has gained independence and confidence. She is more talkative and confident when communicating with children and adults alike."

Funding sources

The Commonwealth Government provides financial support for Liverpool Family Day Care under the Child Care Services Support Program.

Mission Australia

Mission Australia is one of the nation's leading community service organisations, having helped transform the lives of individuals and families in need for over 150 years. Mission Australia's vision is to see a fairer Australia by enabling people in need to find pathways to a better life. We currently operate more than 550 community and employment services throughout metropolitan, rural and regional Australia, which provide:

- Pathways away from homelessness;
- Pathways to strong families and healthy, happy children;
- Pathways through a successful youth;
- Pathways to life and work-ready skills
- Pathways to sustainable employment

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