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2013, Oct 14, 15, 17, Nov 18

# Electronic Media

## Policy Statement

Digital technologies and computers have become an integral part of many children's daily lives. For this reason, it is important that our Educators are not only familiar with the use of computer technologies, but are able to guide children's understanding of, and ability to use them. Technology and media items will only be used as an extension to the daily program assisting in the development of social, physical, emotional, cognitive, language and creative potential of each child. Quality TV programs can be helpful in the retelling of stories about our culture and help to celebrate diversity.

## National Quality Standard (NQS)

### Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice

1.1.1 – Approved learning framework

1.1.3 – Program learning and opportunities

## Procedure

Programs are chosen that are engaging and age appropriate to children: Only 'G' or PG rated television programs and movies will be viewed at the service.

TV, DVDs, film or computer games should be planned as part of a balanced program activities. They could highlight a particular activity or interest in the program. They should not be a daily activity in the service.

### Some appropriate times for video/visual activity are:

1. If a child has requested a specific video/DVD.
2. When children require restful periods such as the end of the term
3. If the weather is not suitable for outside activity (e.g. excessive heat and or rain).
4. Or if a child has an educational/extra curricula video that they wish to share.

Material should be varied and be both recreational and educational.

TV, DVDs, film, video, videos games, computer games, iPad/pic collages and or music may be planned as part of the program and advertised in the program to the parents, but again is not to be used as a daily activity.

Children wishing to bring their own audio/visual media will do so only with the permission of a parent/guardian and the educators at the service when it is incorporated into the educational program.

Children's iPod materials should be listened to by the individual child and if sharing educators are required to be aware of the content of the music.

Children are not to take pictures of other children with their own electronic devices at any time.

Occasionally children are assisted by educators to utilise the iPad for movie making. Children who are not allowed to have their photograph taken will be excluded from the activity. These movies will only be viewed at the service with educator's direct supervision.

Parent/Guardian permission will be sought through the services enrolment form in regards to children watching G and or PG rated videos/DVDs and the use of iPad. Educators where possible should preview or listen to the TV, film, DVD's, video, video games or music and ensure the material or music being provided is suitable for the varied age group of children attending as well as acknowledging that children's perceptions may differ from adults.

Children should continue to be provided with other activities during the showing of a video and be properly supervised, even if the majority of the children are attending the viewing.

Video recordings of children by educators will enhance self-esteem as does electronic photo appliances. They provide a record of particular educational programming and learning opportunities, excursions, dramatic play and complement storytelling and educator evaluation. These videos will only be viewed at the service.

If showing a PG rated classification to the older children, for example Children 9 and older, educators should be aware of the setup of the room to accommodate this within the program.

Educators should take into consideration feedback from families regarding suitable material that the service is exposing children, some material may offend families' beliefs and culture.

**GENERAL (G):** the classifications if for general audience. However, it does not necessarily indicate that children will enjoy the film or computer games. Some G films and games contain themes, storylines or game play that does not interest children.

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG):** material classified PG may contain material which some children find confusing or upsetting, and may require the guidance of parents or guardians. It is not recommended for viewing by persons under 15 years of age without guidance from parents or guardians.

**NOTE: Movies or games rated M, MA15+, R18+ and x18+ are not suitable under any circumstances for children under the age of 15 years.**

### **Computers and Computer Games**

In middle childhood, computer- based experiences should build on and extend children's knowledge and understanding, and are also likely to include a recreational component through the use of games.

There can be many benefits of using computers with children who have additional needs. This may include the computer being a source of communication with other children and educators, or that the use of certain software can provide stimulation that the child would otherwise not experience

### **Educators will select and introduce software to children which:**

- Are open minded and facilitates the sharing of ideas and information
- Involves children in challenging, open-minded exploration and discussion
- Are age-appropriate and non-violent.
  
- Are designed to be used by groups of children or encourages children to take turns
- Introduces computers in a play context that does not require a successful product or result
- Are easily manipulate yet maintains an interesting level of complexity
- Caters for all ages and stages i.e. Does not assume or depend on children being able to read
- Supports the development of creative arts
- On request and the rating explored and discussed
- Only provide programs or apps that they have viewed and assessed prior to introducing to children

It is understood that some children may wish to use computer games for what would be considered as unhealthy amounts of time. The use of such equipment will be restricted and children provided with time limits.

### **Compact discs**

Aural media may be used in a range of ways including

Providing well-read/sung tapes of children's songs, stories and poems

Involving children in recording sounds, speaking, singing to encourage self-esteem and confidence.

Use of cd's will of a musical nature introduces children to a variety of cultural experiences and extends their imagination through listening and movement

Extending the use of aural media through dramatic play, movement and singing

Initiates discussion especially with older children in regards to the value of radios and its uses.

### **Children's responsibilities**

- Will not have access to the internet whilst at the service
- Must leave mobile phones either in school bags or in the office at all times unless specific permission is given from the parent/guardian of the child
- Children will take their own responsibility for any electronic devices they bring from home

- Will not use social media to harass or bully others

### **Families and Visitors**

- May not use a personal camera or mobile phone to take photographs at the service or an outing organised by the service unless they are only taking images of their own child
- Must not post information about the service, educators, management, families or any matters relating to the service on a social networking site
- Ensure that only PG or G rated DVD's or games be brought to the service by their children
- Must not use social media to harass or bully others

In the case of any breaches of this policy an inquiry will result which may lead to the termination of a child's placement at the service. Serious breaches may lead to the possible legal action being taken by the service.

### **Source**

- Australian Government Department of Health. (2014). *Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines*.
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia
- National Quality Standard
- Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).
- Child Care Desktop policies