

# Primary Care Giving

The aim of primary caregiving is to ensure that each child has a positive child care experience. This is known as 'secure base behaviour' where a child will explore the environment and take risks knowing an adult (with whom they have a secure, trusting relationship) is close by if necessary.

Secure attachments are based on healthy relationships between children and caregivers. Children who are securely attached will be happy to say goodbye to parents and caregiver, play easily by themselves and with others and only cry if hungry, tired or hurt. Furthermore with the consistency of educators research shows that young children are more likely to develop a secure attachment (bonding) relationship at child care which enables them to trust, explore feel good and begin to organize their behaviour and learn.

Early childhood research has also demonstrated that nurturing and responsive relationships build healthy brain development in children, by providing a strong foundation for children's learning, behaviour and health. It is therefore essential that child care settings promote consistent, nurturing relationships between child care professionals and children in which each child's needs are recognized and responded to sensitively.

## Educator Roles and Routines

Educators will begin forming secure attachments with your child throughout the orientation process and each and every day they are in care. Any information you can give to your child's educator about their interests, specific needs, comforting techniques and dislikes will all aid educators in quickly establishing this rapport with your child.

Our Centre also highly regards the partnerships we have with families, as they too play an important role in primary caregiving and secure base attachment. Throughout the Centre you will see a variety of ways that you can contribute useful information about your child, for example educators will ask for details about your child's home routine including sleep and eating routines, developmental milestones, temperament, in addition to activities and experiences that your child enjoys at home that could also be incorporated into the room programs. By utilizing these details educators can ensure that the care offered to your child, and throughout the Centre remains child focused, interest based and of high quality.

Within our Centre, and in conjunction with our philosophy of establishing relationships between educators and children you will also be able to read your child's individual learning stories (please see the Learning Stories information sheet). These too will demonstrate the relationship that your child has with the educators at the Centre and the learning that occurs within a setting that nurtures children's independence, security and development and celebrates their achievements.

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