

## Education and Care in the IHC context

**Working as an educator in a family's home is very different to working in a Centre or FDC service.**

In Home Care is only for families who have met the criteria and are unable to access mainstream child care due to:

1. Family is geographically isolated.
2. Parents/caregivers are working non-standard hours.

3. Or complex or challenging needs – sick family members, children have medical needs or disabilities.

In a child's home the environment is ultimately controlled by the family and will need you to have an understanding and an open mind and be a bit creative when working with these families.

**Your main role is to provide an educational learning program for the children in your care and record each child's progress.**

The educational program should be designed to help develop the child's social, emotional, physical and creative abilities, and should promote each child's engagement in self-directed learning/play and independence. This can look like age appropriate activities – sand, water, playdough and painting or can be assisting older children with organising their time around homework, afternoon play in the park and board games. Care arrangements can be at night time so teaching children how to prepare for school the next day, organising lunch or bedtime routines. An educational program will vary from family to family and be influenced by the care requirements of the family.

The Family Management Plan you receive about each family will explain more about the family situation, their children and educational needs. From this you will gather the days and times of care, number of children, their ages, allergies and additional needs. This will start to give you a picture of what resources you will need for your day. Researching the area the family lives in to find parks and libraries will be helpful.



The family home will vary from each family and may have some resources available or you may need to provide all activities. Understand that each family lives differently and the reason you are in the home could be because of complexity in the family's situation. Families who have challenging or complex situations could have additional support networks in place to help and will be involved with you whilst you are caring for the children. This could include a disability worker, health care professional or FACs caseworker.

Your Service Provider will work with you and is there to support you whilst working with a family. The In Home Care Support Agency is also available to help you with resources and questions you may have.



**In Home Care Support Agency South Australia and NSW**

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