

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.

Working as an educator in a family's home differs significantly from working in Centre Based Care (CBC) or a Family Day Care (FDC) service. In Home Care (IHC) is only for families who have met the criteria and are unable to access mainstream child care due to the following:

1. Family is geographically isolated
2. Parents/ caregivers are working non-standard hours
3. Or complex or challenging needs – sick family members, children who 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 primary role is to provide an Educational learning program for the children in your care and record each child's progress in a safe environment where you manage risk respectfully. The educational program should be designed to help develop the child's social, emotional, physical and creative abilities and 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, so teaching children how to prepare for school the next day and organising lunch or bedtime routines are all learning experiences. 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 their educational needs. From this, you will gather the days and times of care, the 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 family's area 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. Understanding that each family lives differently and you may be in the home could be because of a family 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 look like

a disability worker, health care professional or Family And Community Services caseworker.

Your Service provider and the In Home Support Agency, will work with you, to support you whilst working with an IHC family, they are available to help with resources and any questions you may have.



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