



Screen Based Media Policy

The Rumpus Room Children's Centre is a Child Safe Organisation.

Aims:

Explanation:

When we refer to media or screen based media in this policy we include televisions, DVD, Video, computers, iPads and other mobile devices.

Staff provide a high quality program for children based on individual needs and interests, therefore we feel that there is little requirement for the regular use of television. A television may be used to enhance the program, for special occasions and in cases of extreme weather.

Computers and iPads will be used at times with the children as an Educational tool. These may be educational programs and apps for research by the teacher on the children's behalf for accurate and extended information on a topic of interest.

The Rumpus Room makes responsible choices about the media offered to children and works in partnership with families.

This policy supports inclusive practices at the Centre.

Young media Australia writes "It is important that children have time to be in the real world, and to build strong bonds with real caring people. Media can be a thief of children's time that they really need for other experiences – active and "hands-on" activities of all kinds"

Young Media also recommends:

- -Children under 2 years very little time
- -Preschoolers: an hour a day is plenty (of programs made for preschool children).

In 2004 over 20% of NSW 4-5 year olds watched 3 or more hours of television on a typical week day (Irwin and King) 62 % watched between 1 and 3 hours.

Munch and Move recommend children younger than 2 years of age do not spend any time watching small screens. They recommend children 2-5 years should spend less than 1 hour per day on small screen activities.

Television screen may be used to show photographs of the day's activities for children to recall, discuss and share with families as they arrive.

Implementation:

This policy applies to all families with children attending the Centre and all Educators including students and volunteers.

The nursery children are not of an age to be interested in or stimulated (for any period of time) by a television program or video. Therefore the staff feel the use of television, video and computers is not appropriate to this age group.

In Mischief Mountain & Tumbling Tides the television, may be used within the program on an irregular basis usually in the late afternoon or when a small section of a program supports and enhances the learning. Computers and ipads may be used at times to enhance learning.

- Staff will supervise and interact with the children while they are watching the Television.



- If the children have lost interest in the program then the television will be turned off.
- Staff will ensure that all DVD's and television programs are age appropriate.
- Other activities will be offered at the same time for children who are not interested.

The Rumpus Kings & Wild Things (Chatham street)

In the Pre School room television and computers / ipads will be used for the following purposes

- For involvement in the interactive program from Early Language Learning Australia (E.L.L.A)
- A DVD that suits the current topic may be shown as part of the daily program. Alternate activities will be provided for children who choose not to view.
- Computers / ipads may be used for research on behalf of or by the children and for appropriate educational programs and apps.
- DVD viewing will remain an occasional activity.
- Pre School Staff will use their discretion regarding DVD's, programs and apps.
- Details of viewing will be included in the daily program and journal.

Benefits of the use of screen based media for Young Children

- Interests
- Language development
- Music Appreciation
- Dancing / Physically active play
- Reinforcing concepts featured in the program

This policy links to the following NQS:

National Quality Standard: 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.3.2, 2.1.3

See Appendix 1-National Law and National Regulations

Source Documents:

NSW Health Munch & Move program resources available of Healthy Kids website
www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au

Australian 24-hour Movement guidelines for the Early Years (birth to 5 years)- <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/health-pubhlth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines#npa050>

Young Media Australia, How much time should my children spend with the media
(www.youngmedia.org.au) 11 December 2008.

pscwa, Does television have a place in child care programs

(www.pscwa.org.au/documents/DoesTVHaveaPlaceinCC.pdf) 10.12.08

Irwin & King