

Bilgola Plateau Public School OOSH

My Time Our Place

Let's unpack what My Time Our Place or (MYTOP) is and why it's important for Bilgola OOSH Educators to know what it is, why we use it and how it helps us as Educators provide children with a rich, inclusive environment where play and learning sit side by side in a child centred environment.

Let's look at the 3 B's, Belonging, Being and Becoming. These are the embedded themes of MYTOP. Belonging, being and becoming are integral parts of a child's identity.

Belonging

We can help children feel a sense of belonging in our OOSH center by being warm, genuine, and attentive to their ideas, interests and needs. By displaying artworks, being respectful of diversity and having knowledge of the families within our center we create a sense of belonging. Our aim, when thinking about creating a sense of belonging is to create a sense of inclusion, security and warmth.

Being

Within our OOSH setting a child's sense of being can be facilitated through Educators appreciating and acknowledging children's skills and accomplishments, providing opportunities for children to explore and learn through unstructured free play, embracing culture and celebrating special events. It is vital that children's uniqueness and individuality is nurtured and recognised and that respectful relationships are nurtured, and maintained.

Becoming

A child's sense of becoming refers to the changes they experience as they grow, learn and develop. As children participate in life, they develop interests and construct their own unique identities. In our OOSH setting we can facilitate this sense of becoming by allowing space and time for children to practice self-mastery, celebrating individual growth and achievements and by providing opportunities for children to develop their skills in a safe, nurturing, child focused environment.

MYTOP is a framework that provides broad direction for school aged care Educators in care settings to facilitate children's play, leisure and learning. MYTOP contains themes, principles, practices and outcomes.

So, how can I use the elements, principles, practices and outcomes of MYTOP in the OOSH setting? MYTOP has a lot of information but there is no need to be overwhelmed, the main things to remember are, that at OOSH, our role as Educators is to walk along side of children, listening to them, valuing their thoughts and opinions and doing all we can to extend and build on their thoughts, ideas and interests. It's important to remember that children in school aged settings have choice and control over their learning as they collaborate with Educators to extend their learning journeys.

Principles

The principles of the framework underpin practice that is focused on collaborating with all children to reach the framework's outcomes. It's how we as Educators can help children achieve the outcomes. The principles of the framework are; secure, respectful, and reciprocal relationships, partnerships, respect for diversity, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, equity, inclusion and high expectations, sustainability, critical reflection and ongoing professional learning and collaborative leadership and teamwork.

Practice

The principles detailed above underpin our practices, this is the 'how' of the framework. Practices include holistic approaches, collaboration, play, leisure and intentionality, environments, cultural responsiveness, continuity and transition and assessment and evaluation for wellbeing, learning and development.

Outcomes

The outcomes of the framework are the things we want children to have, we use these outcomes to program, plan, assess and evaluate. The outcomes are broad and observable and fundamentally recognise that school aged children should have choices and opportunities. The outcomes are: Children and young people have a strong sense of identity, are connected with and contribute to their world, have a strong sense of wellbeing, are confident and involved learners and are effective communicators.