

## WODEN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

### SCREEN BASED MEDIA POLICY

#### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

When we refer to media or screen based media in this policy we include televisions, DVD and Video.

*Staff provide a high quality program for children based on individual needs and interests, therefore we feel that there is no requirement for the regular use of television. The use of the Television at the centre will be limited to cases of extreme weather conditions, linking to the program and special occasions. Activities will be provided for children who are no longer interested in watching*

Woden Early Childhood Centre makes responsible choices about the media offered to children and works in partnership with families.

This policy supports inclusive practices at Woden Early Childhood Centre. Please refer to the inclusion Policy

#### **RATIONALE:**

Young media Australia writes "Its importantthat 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 pre school 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.

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to all families with children attending the Centre and all Staff including students and volunteers.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:** ACT *Centre based Children Services Conditions 2000*  
5.1

**QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM:** *Quality Improvement and Accreditation System – Practices Guide*

**LOCATION OF INFORMATION:** This information is made available to all families and staff during the orientation process. It is included in the CD Policy given to each family and staff member on orientation as well as being mentioned in the family handbook and staff handbook. Printed copies can be made available on request for those families without computer access.

**Source Documents:**

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

pscwa, Does television have a place in child care programs ([www.pscwa.org.au/documents/DoesTVHaveaPlaceinCC.pdf](http://www.pscwa.org.au/documents/DoesTVHaveaPlaceinCC.pdf)) 10.12.08

Irwin & King ([www.coo.health.usyd.edu.au/pdf/Understanding\\_LSAC\\_V5\\_Aug08-1.pdf](http://www.coo.health.usyd.edu.au/pdf/Understanding_LSAC_V5_Aug08-1.pdf)) August 2008

Parentlink, Television, ([www.parentlink.act.gov.au/parenting\\_guides/all\\_ages/television](http://www.parentlink.act.gov.au/parenting_guides/all_ages/television) , 10/12/08

**POLICY REVIEW**

This policy is reviewed on a biannual basis both by the centres staff and then by families. Once the Policy has been reviewed and changes are made it goes to the management committee for ratification. Please refer to the Policy development and review

**Date endorsed by Committee: 24.3.09**

**Date to be reviewed: 24.3.10**

## **Nursery**

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 and video is not appropriate to this age group.

## **Toddlers**

In the Toddler Room the television may be used within the program no more than once a month, usually in the late afternoon.

- Staff will supervise and interact with the children while they are watching the Television.
- 40 minutes is the maximum time allocated for children to watch the television.
- If the children have lost interest in the program then the television will be packed away.
- Staff will ensure that all video's and television programs are age appropriate.
- Other activities will be offered at the same time for children who are not interested.

## **Benefits of the use of video's and television's for Toddlers**

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

## **Intro Room**

The use of television/video in the Intro room will be limited to the following areas.

- If the television program or video links with the room's weekly program eg: planned craft activity on dinosaurs – then a video about dinosaurs may be appropriate
- The use of television and video's will be used no more than twice a month

Parents will be informed that the children have watched the television or a video, by a note on the message board in the Intro room and on the daily program.

A variety of other activities will be offered at the time of viewing for any child not wishing to watch the television.

Any parent not wanting their child to watch the television should speak to the staff so that arrangements can be made for the child to visit another room (Toddlers or Pre School)

## **Pre School Room**

In the Pre School room the television will be used for the following purposes

- A video that suits the topic which we are covering may be shown as part of the daily program.

Video's will not be shown during core Pre School hours, which are 9 am - 4 pm and alternative activities will be provided for children who choose not to watch the video.

- Video viewing will remain an occasional activity.
- Pre School Staff will use their discretion regarding videos.
- Details of videos viewed will be included in the day's magic moments.

Woden Early Childhood Centre

Cover page format adapted from Child Care Co-operative Model Policy to fit with our existing content