

Curriculum vs program

1. Understanding the difference between program & curriculum

- **Program** – experiences and activities we plan for or deliberately set up – weekly program (the ‘planning’ stage of the planning cycle)
- **Curriculum** – everything that happens in a day – i.e. routines, experiences, interactions, events, planned and unplanned (the ‘implementation’ stage of the planning cycle)

Curriculum the EYLF defines curriculum as everything that happens in a day. It is “all the interactions, routines and events, planned and unplanned, that occur in an environment designed to foster children’s learning and development”. (Early Years Learning Framework, p.9) Such a broad definition makes us think about “curriculum” differently. It is about more than just the experiences or activities we plan for or deliberately set up. Routines and everyday events can offer opportunities for learning that are just as valuable as activities provided at other times of the day.

Anna Stonehouse From Early childhood Australia defines curriculum on the blog as;

The definition of curriculum as ‘the child’s whole experience’ is recognition that significant learning is occurring throughout the day, not only in planned experiences. Learning occurs at arrivals, when children are making the transition from home and family, and again when they reunite with families and leave the service. Significant learning occurs at meal and snack times, rest and sleep times and in all the daily living experiences that occur in education and care services. (Stonehouse. A, 2015.ECA, the spoke)

Further resources about difference between curriculum and program

<http://thespoke.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/extending-learning-activities/>

Refer to page 9 of the Early Years Learning Framework for a definition of Curriculum