



## Our Philosophy

At Al Iman College Early Learning Centre (AIC ELC), we are committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals who grow spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and environmentally. As an integral part of Al Iman College, we embody the institution's vision of producing well-balanced individuals who know their purpose of life and are equipped to fulfill their roles and functions with excellence. Guided by the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) and Islamic values and principles, we create a safe, inclusive and enriching environment where children love learning and feel valued.

Inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, we view children as capable, curious, and active participants in their own learning. Our practices celebrate their individuality, creativity and potential to contribute meaningfully to their world.

Aligned with Al Iman College's vision and mission, AIC ELC nurtures children who begin to develop a sense of purpose and connection to their Creator, Allah SWT. Through play-based learning and exploration, we encourage children to grow in knowledge, faith and character, setting a strong foundation for their future roles and responsibilities in life.

### Core Sifaat (Values)

Our early learning environment nurtures the core values (Sifaat) of Al Iman College in developmentally appropriate ways:

- **Vision/mission-oriented life:** We help children set goals and celebrate their achievements.
- **Honesty/integrity:** We encourage truthfulness in our words and actions
- **Continuous quest for knowledge:** We foster curiosity and a love for learning
- **Continuous quest for excellence:** We inspire children to do their best
- **Dedication/commitment:** We support children in persevering through challenges
- **Consistency (Istiqamah):** We establish predictable routines that build trust and security
- **Cleanliness and orderliness:** We teach children to care for their environment and belongings
- **Resilience:** We guide children to learn from mistakes and develop emotional strength

## Role of the Environment

Our environment is created to reflect Al Iman College's philosophy of quality and wholeness. Our learning spaces incorporate Islamic practices that allow children to engage with their faith while promoting curiosity and discovery.

Our Centre provides a welcoming, stimulating environment that fosters learning, creativity, and social connection. Both indoor and outdoor spaces offer open-ended opportunities for exploration, curiosity, and collaboration. Our materials and spaces are thoughtfully designed to empower children's agency and creativity.

We also promote environmental responsibility through sustainable practices, including composting food waste with a worm farm, using rainwater for gardening, and teaching children about recycling and caring for nature. These activities help children develop respect for the environment and an understanding of their role in protecting it.

## Curriculum

At AIC ELC, we embrace play-based learning as a foundation for children to explore, question, and make sense of their world. Children develop essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and emotional regulation through play.

We integrate Islamic values and practices into daily learning through Quran recitation and duas, fostering a deep connection to faith and spirituality. We document and celebrate their learning experiences, encouraging them to revisit their achievements with pride.

Our Lending Library supports literacy development and a love for reading by allowing children to choose books that interest them. We provide opportunities for children to reflect on their reading and express their thoughts, fostering creativity and language development.

## Child Agency and Empowerment

At AIC ELC, we empower children to participate actively in their learning. We recognise every child as capable, creative, and full of potential. Their voices, choices, and ideas shape our program and activities.

Through initiatives like the Lending Library, children are encouraged to make decisions and express their perspectives, fostering independence and confidence. We also celebrate children's cultural identities and home languages, promoting a sense of belonging and pride in their heritage.

We strive to develop confident learners who are proud of their identity and values as young Muslims by empowering their autonomy and decision-making and connecting them to faith.

### AIC ELC Team as Role Models

Our educators embody Al Iman College's Core Values (Sifaat) in their daily interactions and teaching practices. They demonstrate dedication to excellence (Ihsan), consistency in approach, and a continuous quest for knowledge through professional development and reflective practice. By living these values, our Educators serve as role models who inspire children to develop similar qualities.

The AIC ELC team builds strong, trusting relationships with children and families, creating a positive and supportive learning environment. Educators are aware of their responsibility in helping shape each child's educational journey. They plan learning experiences that nurture children's spiritual connections while supporting their holistic development.

## **Collaborative Partnerships**

We believe education is a collaborative journey involving educators, families, allied health professionals, and the community. Open communication and family feedback and participation help us enhance our programs and provide tailored support to meet every child's needs.

We partner with allied health professionals to support children's holistic development and work closely with Al Iman College to ensure a smooth transition to school. By building solid relationships with families and the wider community, we create a shared path of learning and growth for children.

## **Seamless Educational Journey**

At AIC ELC, we recognise our role as the foundation of children's educational journey with Al Iman College. We work closely with the primary school to ensure a continuity in educational approaches and development plans. Our program acclimates children to routines, schedules and situations that prepare them for a smooth transition to school while allowing children to have the joy and wonder of early learning.

We run transition sessions to help our AIC ELC children feel comfortable and confident about starting school. First, primary school teachers visit AIC ELC to meet the children and build connections. Later, the children visit the primary school and see the teachers in their classrooms. During this visit, the teachers share a social storybook and engage in fun activities with the children. These sessions help reduce anxiety and make moving to school smoother and more comfortable for the children.

## **Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility**

At AIC ELC, we prioritise teaching children about caring for the environment. Through hands-on activities such as gardening, worm farming, harvesting rainwater, and recycling, children learn the importance of sustainability and develop a lifelong respect for nature.

By fostering an understanding of environmental responsibility, we aim to inspire children to contribute positively to their communities and care for the world around them.