

Wombat Willows Early Learning Centre Child Care Philosophy

Our philosophy is a set of guiding principles that supports decision making and actions for the service. Families, children, the team, local community, and contemporary research influence our philosophy.

In relation to children, we believe:

- Children are capable and unique and come to us with their own individual needs, interests and strengths.
- Secure attachments provide children with opportunities to thrive in every aspect of their development. To support this we implement concepts of “Circle of Security” and “Attachment” Theories.
- Children develop at their own pace and in learning environments that offer hands on exploration and play opportunities. Educators support children’s learning and development through using a variety of pedagogical approaches, such as intentional teaching and spontaneous planning.
- Children benefit from large amounts of time spent in natural environments both indoors and outdoors. Natural environments and nature play provide children with opportunities to explore their creativity, take risks, be physically active, and develop confidence and feelings of competency (<http://bushkindyexplorers.com.au/benefits-of-nature-play/>).

In relation to families, we believe:

- Partnerships with families are beneficial to the success of children’s educational journey, because families are children’s first and most influential educators (EYLF, pg 7).
- Families come with unique and diverse cultural heritage. Family engagement is valuable and therefore welcomed and encouraged within the service. This allows for a sense of belonging and cultural identity.
- Families need to feel secure and supported within the service, trusting that their children are cared for in a nurturing environment.

In relation to the educational team, we believe:

- Educators will advocate for children and families wellbeing and rights. As advocates the National Quality Framework, The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, ECA Code of Ethics, and Council’s Guidelines and Procedures, guides the educational team.
- The role of the educator is to facilitate, support, guide and encourage children’s holistic learning and development. We achieve this through providing meaningful experiences, encouraging healthy lifestyle habits, and building and maintaining positive relationships.
- In providing an open and flexible learning community that is influenced by families, children, the educational team, and broader community. Some ways we achieve this is through a progressive program that is provoked by children and family’s interests and ideas, and environments that encourage exploration to support and challenge knowledge, interests and skills.
- It is our role as educators to provide children with opportunities to interact with nature and the outdoors, where they can experience ways of “being” that benefit their overall health and wellbeing (<http://thespoke.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/the-values-we-lay-in-outdoor-play/>).
- Sustainability is essential to our practices as we advocate for a community where we do what we can to reduce our environmental footprint. We understand that it is within our role as educators to educate the children and community on ways they can come on this journey with us (Education and Care Services Sustainability Framework).