

Amber Cottage Early Learning Centre Philosophy

Amber Cottage Early Learning Centre's Philosophy is a statement of beliefs that guide our practice within the service. Our philosophy incorporates values and beliefs from families, the educators, the local community and regulatory bodies.

- We believe that children learn most effectively through play. We believe that learning through play is most effective when children are interested in what they are doing. Between the ages of birth to five years, play is a vital component of children's development which enables educators and families to focus on growth wellbeing and supporting the child as an individual.
- We believe that building positive relationships with families will influence positive attachments with children.
- We believe that respecting cultures, beliefs and traditions of families that use the service will enable children to develop a strong sense of identity.
- We believe all children, families and educators are unique and can add value to the service program. Children will be treated with respect and individuality is encouraged to allow children to develop to their full potential. Educators strongly support the individual child and their developing needs.
- We believe in providing a relaxed, home-like environment to encourage familiarity while allowing active exploration for children. The room layout is designed in a way that creates a calm atmosphere that can foster children's emotional security and wellbeing. We believe that children's emotional wellbeing provides a secure base and foundation for all other learning to occur.
- We believe in teamwork to ensure a common approach to teaching and learning to provide consistency with service practices.
- We believe that knowledge of theory and research is in the ongoing professional development of educators. This in turn, ensures the program provides experiences that best support the ongoing learning of the children.
- We believe in accessing external organisations to support families, children and educators (such as Benevolent Society, Burnside and KU Children's Services) to support the service in providing additional support for families.
- We believe in a holistic approach developing children's awareness of 'sustainability'. We believe in the importance of children actively developing knowledge of the environment through hands on experiences such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), using recycled products in all learning centres.