

**Eagles Nest Early Learning Centre Child Care Philosophy**

Eagles Nest Early Learning Centre's Philosophy is a mission statement identifying our beliefs and reasons behind our practices. It embodies principles and practices that underpin our everyday interactions with children, families, educators and the wider community.

**Our vision**

Is to provide high quality, nurturing care for children and families in our local community. Where children and educators feel safe and supported to reach their full potential. To be a source of information linking families into local community support services.

**In relation to children**

We acknowledge the social nature and process of play as a journey through which learning occurs. We honour children's right to play as both a process and content for learning. We believe children are capable learners and their knowledge is valuable and it is a tool for enhancing the knowledge of others. We encourage and actively seek children's input into service decisions that affect the importance of the present day of children's lives. We believe children are global citizens and support their understanding and responsibilities towards the environment and humanity. Children are supported and encouraged to explore their relationships and social connections, which help, build their sense of belonging.

**In relation to families**

We believe that families are their children's first and most influential teachers and we promote the development of respectful and reciprocal partnerships through mutual trust and open communication with each family. We believe that each individual family has their own parenting and child rearing practices, which are recognised and respected. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to become involved at the service in a way that respects the parents work, study and personal commitments

**In relation to education**

Contemporary research and practice regarding children's education are a source of professional reflection for our educators. We support and follow the Early Years Learning Framework and use it as a guide to supporting children's learning and development. We believe that curriculum planning and documentation, as well as reflection, are vital to identifying, planning and implementing an interest-based program and should be informed by current research. We believe that the educational program should incorporate a flexible and spontaneous approach that follows the children's interests and strengths. We encourage children to use their voice to make choices. Where children can become active participants respecting themselves, each other, our resources and environment. We make curriculum decisions that promote all children's inclusion and participation and help them respect and appreciate diversity. Our curriculum reflects the cultures of our local community and demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that everyone feels a sense of belonging.

**In relation to the community**

We acknowledge the Dharawal people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather and learn. We are committed to embedding and supporting the inclusion of first nation's perspectives through our daily practices and our education program. Our Community is diverse and our children are an integral part of it. We value this diversity and is promoted through an inclusive program. Children have the opportunity to have access to different resources and services such a libraries, parks shopping centres that enhance children's knowledge on their community. We will provide a program which is responsive to the community needs and events. We will support children to be capable and involved with community events through both planned intentional teaching and spontaneous learning experiences that are aligned with our community. We work will in partnership with a range of tertiary institutions (for example, TAFE and Universities), to foster and educate students in becoming high quality Early Childhood Professionals.