



Centre Philosophy

Our vision for the children is to ensure they are happy, content and comfortable within their environment. To create a place where they can explore and feel safe. To provide a service where children want to attend and bond with educators and other children, as well as incorporate educational programs based on play and that furthers social skills.

In relation to the children we will: At Cath's Kindy we believe that children are active in their own learning. They require play as well as daily life experiences that stimulate their areas of development and we offer opportunities which will engage the children in exploring and experimenting. Furthermore children need the chance to grow and develop in order to further their understanding and capabilities. We believe that a "child's cognitive abilities expand with sophistication of development" because of Jean Piaget's theories of development. Children will have access to developmentally appropriate activities and resources designed to challenge their thinking and assist in their learning.

As Educators We Will: At Cath's Kindy we acknowledge the cultural and linguistic skills and varied experiences of each child, family and staff. We display a sense of professionalism and pride in our centre while continually improving our knowledge base and our standard of care. As our passion is for children we advocate for the rights of the child as well as being a positive role model and provide responsive, reciprocal and respectful care and education, as well as encouraging children to learn through play. In doing so we provide opportunities for each child to learn in a positive play environment as we ensure children are achieving their full potential through a holistic approach. Cath's Kindy educators will be supported to ensure professional development is maintained to keep up with best practice as well as ensuring job satisfaction.

In relation to the environment we will: We will provide an inclusive environment where all children are respected, nurtured and the environment allows the children to be involved learners. "Children are like sponges they want to soak up everything".

We aim to provide an environment that is supportive and welcoming and responsiveness to their needs. We also aim to provide an environment that is both flexible for indoor and outdoor learning. We aim for our environment to be open, vibrant, engaging and stimulating for all children to be involved in. We educate children and families in regards to sustainability and we will continuously strive to become more Eco friendly. The Reggio Emilia approach to teaching young children emphasises the natural development of children as well as the close relationships that they share with their environment at the centre of its philosophy. Therefore, we recognise the importance of the learning environment at Cath's Kindy and strive to make it a valuable resource to a child's learning and their developmental growth.

In relation to the Community we will: We will work collaboratively in partnership with the local community to extend and enhance knowledge for our educators and our families. Our program will strongly identify and link with the local community to encompass and develop an awareness of our community and its surroundings. We will act as a resource for families by sharing, exchanging or linking them with information regarding other child care professionals available within the community. At Cath's Kindy we acknowledge that children and their families are apart of and form the community as a whole. The diversity and variety within our community is valued and respected. As educators we seek to reflect the community ideals through our curriculum.

In relation to families we will: The importance of the home and family will be recognised and ongoing communication and interaction between home and the centre will positively foster children's learning. We support the extension of home and family into our learning environments. All cultures and beliefs are encouraged and respected and will be embedded into our daily curriculum. We will continue to develop positive relationships and partnerships with families that are based on mutual trust and open communication. Furthermore we will encourage communication and the sharing of knowledge to further develop our understanding of their child and provide professional support if needed. We believe that all children and families deserve to be treated equally regardless of race, gender, culture, religion, sex, abilities or disabilities. By believing this in practice we will create a diverse environment within the centre of which children's attitudes towards others are shaped in a positive way. Our curriculum and teaching techniques will promote and respect individual differences.

Sources:

- Code of Ethics
- Being, Belonging & Becoming-The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (2009), Australian Govt. Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for the Councils of Australian Government
 - Introduction to Child Development Theories