



# Kangaroo Island Children's Services Philosophy.

*Enriching life's journey*

Kangaroo Island Children's Services (KICS) has three sites; an integrated site at Kingscote that operates Centre Based Care and Preschool, Kingscote Out of Hours School Care and Penneshaw Centre Based Care.

The Kangaroo Island Children's Services Statement of Philosophy has been developed in the context of Kangaroo Island's uniqueness as a community, characterised by close relationships, natural beauty and geographic isolation.

At KICS we are committed to providing quality care and education. Both our Kingscote sites have been rated and assessed as Exceeding National Quality Standards, with our Penneshaw site assessed as Meeting National Quality Standards.

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, "Belonging, Being & Becoming" and My Time Our Place are our guiding curriculums. Our documentation reflects the five learning outcomes which are:

- children have a strong sense of identity
- children are connected with and contribute to their world
- children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- children are confident and involved learners
- children are effective communicators

Educators and Staff at Kangaroo Island Children's Services are inspired by principles of the Reggio Emilia philosophy. The Reggio Emilia approach is an innovative and inspiring approach to Early Childhood Education which values the child as strong, capable and resilient; rich with wonder and knowledge. Every child brings with them deep curiosity and potential and this innate curiosity drives their interest to understand their world and their place within it.

Through a play-based curriculum we support children in developing their learning dispositions of imagination, curiosity, confidence, persistence, resilience and concentration.

We recognise the benefits of Nature Play and how closely it links to the Reggio approach. Together both these approaches encourage children to develop problem solving, self-regulation, resourcefulness, collaboration and the ability to self-assess risk.

We strive to create engaging learning experiences and believe that every child has the right to a beautiful, inspiring and inviting environment.

We recognise every child as unique and encourage them to be creative, challenge themselves and support them to take risks in their learning within the indoor and outdoor environments. We understand that every child has “One Hundred Languages and more” and we provide wonderful opportunities for children to access a diverse range of mediums to express their thoughts and ideas. The idea of supporting children to find their own strength is an important concept when working with children.

We value the children’s voice and are responsive to their individual needs, interests, and their prior knowledge and let their voice guide our learning journeys.

We are influenced by Marte Meo which is a method that focuses on the importance of communication in the building of relationships and emotional connections. Feeling safe, secure and having a strong sense of belonging is our foundation to developing respectful and meaningful relationships with children and their families. Through true partnerships with parents and guardians we understand and support the culturally diverse needs of our Kangaroo Island families.

At KICS we believe in life-long learning for children, families and our Educators. We ensure that we are informed with up-to-date practices and strive to continue to provide a rich, inspiring and engaging environment that provides children with plenty of opportunities to have their voice heard, to build independence and engage in meaningful interactions with their peers and Educators. We believe in building a foundation and life skill of a love of learning.

We have developed authentic connections within our community and use these partnerships to support children to become citizens of the world. Being an Island in a global world means ensuring that all children develop skills and confidence to be able to explore and discover.

