



Waikerie Children's Centre
16 Marks Tce
Waikerie SA 5330
Ph: 8541 2692 Fax: 8541 3126

PHILOSOPHY

Belief Statement

Our Integrated Centre aims to provide care and education for young children and their families. We aim to compliment care and education within the family and support parent/caregivers, staff and our diverse community through a unique environment that allows children to thrive and be involved in their own learning.

Through consultation, we have established our core values to be:

Respect Excellence Professionalism Partnerships Honesty

PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, FAMILIES

We Believe:

- Parents are the child's first educators and play a vital role in their child's development and within our centre.
- Open and on going communication between parents/caregivers and staff is essential to create a partnership with families.
- Parents are individuals and they have the right to be involved and be heard at any level with which they feel comfortable and in a sensitive manner.
- Parent's skills, identity, culture, knowledge and resources should be valued in the centre's program.
- The diverse values and attitudes each child brings from their family will be respected.
- Confidentiality, respect and privacy of all individuals will be protected.
- Families will feel welcome at all times.
- We offer all families the opportunity to be involved in the governance and planning of policies and processes that represent the whole of the Centre through a Governing Council elected annually by families.

CHILDREN

We Believe:

- Each child is an individual and should be able to develop at his/her own rate within an inclusive environment that will challenge and extend their thinking.
- Children need and learn through a safe, secure, welcoming, fun, caring and healthy active learning environment.
- Each child has the right to be heard, loved, cared for, accepted and feel safe.
- It is through play that children make sense of their world where they experience a sense of curiosity, wonder, discovery, social constructions and enjoyment.
- Play provides the opportunity for children to explore, experiment and test ideas and use the educator as a facilitator in their journey of self-discovery.
- Children can be risk takers of their own learning and educators will support them.
- Children will thrive through early intervention and additional support in the programs that we offer.
- Children develop confidence and life skills through positive relationships with others.
- Play helps children to develop cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual skills.

STAFF

We Believe:

- The Early Years Learning Framework "Belonging, Being and Becoming" will form the basis of our curriculum and will also be underpinned by a combination of Early Childhood Pedagogies that embrace the holistic nature of our professional practice.
- The Early Childhood Australia "Code of Ethics" underlies our beliefs and thoughts.
- Staff are to be welcoming and sensitive to the needs of parents/caregivers/visitors.
- Staff are to communicate with parents/caregivers and children at all times and be respectful in their acknowledgements.
- Staff are responsible for supporting the holistic development of the whole child within the framework of the family and the community.
- Staff will work as a team, supporting and assisting each other demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement within the centre.
- Staff will evaluate and reflect on their own practice and be open to their own professional learning and self-improvement that is supported by the centre.
- Staff will actively work towards the goals within the Quality Improvement Plan.
- Staff are responsible for building and maintaining a professional, safe and positive work environment.
- Staff will document information that provides a greater understanding of the child, their interests and their wellbeing and use it to extend the child's learning journey.
- Staff need to be flexible, have high expectations and be responsive to the individual child and to each other within a positive stimulating learning environment to become successful and confident learners.
- Staff need support, job satisfaction, enjoyment and encouragement alongside opportunities for ongoing professional development.

COMMUNITY

We Believe:

- It is essential to participate with other community groups, agencies and services to share resources and develop networks for families in our community and partnership groups. These collaborative partnerships assist us in developing integrated and sustainable services to support our families and provide them with best opportunities.
- We encompass the wide range of social and cultural diversity of the community we serve and are responsive to its changing needs.
- We encourage respect and take pride in the local and global environment and support good environmental practices in the broader community and within our children's centre.
- We keep informed of the impact of significant environmental challenges of our region and the impact of these on the community we serve.
- It is essential to recognise the significance of children being born into a culture which is not only influenced by traditional practices, heritage and ancestral knowledge but also by experiences, values and beliefs of individual families and communities.

SOURCED FROM

Waikerie Children's Centre Governing Council and Staff 2018
Belonging, Being and Becoming- The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia 2009
National Quality Framework (2011)