

BUNYARRA CHILDREN'S CENTRE PHILOSOPHY – PRINCIPLES and PRACTICES

Oct 2011

IN RESPECT OF THE CHILDREN

The Rights of the Child

1. We respect the rights of children as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991).

The Program

1. To implement a play based program that embraces best practice as outlined in the National Quality Standards and the Early years Learning Framework (EYLF) Belonging, Being and Becoming.
2. To engender appreciation and respect for our diverse society and expose the children to cultures different from their own with particular emphasis on cultures represented in the centre and our own Indigenous culture.
3. To promote and encourage physical wellbeing for a healthy lifestyle.
4. To encourage in children a sense of security, trust and acceptance of self and others to promote empathy and caring.
5. To encourage the children to reach their full potential in accordance with their individual ability and for them to feel confident and proud of their achievements.

The Environment

1. To provide a rich, stimulating and nurturing environment that has the potential to stimulate imagination, promote creativity and enhance aesthetic development.
2. To provide an environment that actively promotes acceptance and inclusion of all people regardless of additional needs, race or religion and free of gender bias, encouraging

all children to participate in every aspect of the program.

3. To provide an environment that actively encourages and promotes cooperation during play, working with their peers and building resilience.

4. To provide a safe and hygienic environment that complies with the National Quality Standards.

5. To ensure that the centre is a place where children feel welcomed in a relaxing, happy, attractive, inviting and stimulating environment.

IN RESPECT OF THE FAMILIES :

1. To promote and encourage collaborative partnerships between educators and families that recognises that families are our children's first and most influential teachers.

2. To provide flexible childcare, consistent with current best practice, that aims to meet the needs of families and to provide continuity of care that is respectful of family values and practices and responsive to diverse and changing needs.

3. To ensure communication between educators and families is open, thoughtful, sustained and effective.

4. To liaise with families on the development and progress of their children, providing support, information and referrals where necessary.

5. To encourage parent/ carer involvement at levels that families feel comfortable with.

6. To establish cooperative relationships between families and the centre where parents/

carers, educators and the management committee work together in consultation on the centre's programs, policies and management, enabling the contribution of ideas, skills and resources.

7. To maintain confidentiality and respect the right of the family to privacy.

IN RESPECT OF THE STAFF

1. To ensure all staff members adhere to the Early Childhood Australia's *Code of Ethics* and *The UCCS Code of Conduct*.

2. To encourage educators to engage in ongoing pedagogy and reflective practice and to have ongoing opportunities for regular professional development both internally and externally.

3. To promote open and effective working relationships where educators are supportive and respectful of one another and encouraged in the sharing of skills.

4. To provide a working environment that supports, encourages and values their development as child care professionals.

5. To provide a safe working environment.

6. To provide educators with information and support to promote their physical and emotional wellbeing.

IN RESPECT OF THE COMMUNITY

1. To provide a centre that reflects positive social values including caring, respect, inclusion and involvement.

2. To utilise community resources to benefit the children's education and development and foster relationships in our local community.

3. To meet the changing and diverse child care needs of the community.

4. To foster awareness of environmental issues and to promote environmentally friendly practices within the centre.

5. To support and assist in the training of future childcare professionals.

6. To promote community understanding of how children learn.

IN RESPECT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

1. To support opportunities for families, educators, church and committee representatives to participate in providing high quality, not for profit, community based service.

2. To strengthen the links between families, educators, the committee, the UCCS and the Tuggeranong Parish through regular communication and participation.

3. To promote community involvement and to utilise the skills and resources available in the wider community.

Sources: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

ECA Code of Ethics

Previous Philosophies of Bunyarra and

Salem Children's Centres

Uniting Care ACT/NSW Children's Services

National Quality Standards: Quality Area

1 Education Program

And Practice.

Early Years Learning Framework

'Belonging, Being & Becoming'

DEEWR 2011
