



# Centre Philosophy

Koala Childcare Early Childhood Educators (practioners) follow the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). With increasing pressure on children to be high academic achievers and the busy nature of many childhoods, the Convention confirms that play is important for children's wellbeing and learning.

Therefore the centre will provide a play based learning curriculum that supports children's learning. We will focus on identifying children's interest areas as well as including the requirements of the governments early childhood framework "Belonging, being and becoming", both state and federal.

The focused learning outcome areas are:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
4. Children are confident and involved learners
5. Children are effective communicators

Parents and guardians will be encouraged to share information about their children so that staff can plan play experiences around those interests.

We value an environment that promotes calmness and respectful interactions with the natural world. The use of natural materials will be included in our children's programs regularly, and children will learn to care for their environment by composting, worm farm, recycling and water conservation.

We value outdoor play. Outdoor play is important at all ages but "children are not born knowing about the world in which they will live. It is only through playful contact with the world, that they can create the learning experiences that allow them to make this world their own".

We value the connection between the centre and the local community. We will work collaboratively with local government, education services, universal and tertiary services.

We believe that interactions between staff, children and families should be positive and respectful of differing family dynamics. The diversity of families and lifestyles will be reflected in the children's programs, the centre menu and the centre's policies.

We value and encourage staff, families and management to be involved in the development and ongoing evaluation of the centre philosophy, policies and procedures.

We value a strong team environment where staff work well with each other, in partnership with families and with other professionals.

We value ongoing professional development. We support staff with further education, internet access for planning and continuing improvement through regular team meetings and in-services.

We believe the role of our team members is to communicate, advocate, nurture, teach, observe, monitor and evaluate.

We believe that our role is to support parents/guardians, not take over from them or challenge their role in any way. Parents know their children better than anyone and therefore should be listened to.

Our philosophy has been agreed upon by staff and families who have reviewed it. The philosophy should be read in conjunction with the centre policies and procedures.

Our 3-5 year old children contributed to the philosophy. They provided excellent feedback .