

Playmates Cottage Childcare Centre Philosophy 2019

The philosophy of Playmates Cottage is based on recognition of the following values: -

C Community (and a sense of Belonging)

As a Community based Childcare Centre we foster our community spirit by having love, respect and understanding for ourselves and others in our local community and beyond.

H Health and Wellbeing

We have a holistic approach, placing equal importance on emotional wellbeing as well as physical wellbeing for children. We understand that children need to feel secure and have their physical needs met. This enables them to fully engage in our program and enjoy all opportunities.

I Inclusion

We welcome all children and families, and actively work on creating and maintaining a culturally safe and culturally inclusive environment where everyone feels connected to the Centre and our community. By working in partnerships with families we strive to be inclusive of all cultures when planning our curriculum and to provide learning experiences of meaning and substance.

L Learning from interest and exploration

We see all children as capable, competent, co-contributors in their learning and education. We believe in learning based on children's interests and exploration. We endeavour to provide opportunities for risky play, sensory exploration, messy play, loose parts and nature play. Children, peers, families and educators are actively encouraged to share and celebrate learning discoveries & have them valued and recorded in a meaningful way.

D Development (in terms of Being and Becoming) for children and educators and the team as a whole.

For children that is; acknowledging that they are individuals who progress at their own pace (being) Then working with them to consolidate and extend their skills and interests in all areas of development (becoming). We believe that children's voices underpin everything we do.

For educators; professional development and further education is supported and encouraged.

For the centre; maintaining a commitment to ongoing quality improvement in thinking and in practice.

R Relationships and Rights

We are committed to building meaningful relationships based on trust and respect with the children, honest communication with families and educators. We aim to consolidate these relationships by helping children and families feel that we provide a home away from home (belonging*). We anticipate and support these relationships continuing into the wider community. We acknowledge children's voices. We see children as holders of rights and ourselves as duty bound to respect and respond to those rights in all aspects of our engagement with children.

E Environment

We aim to create a safe and stimulating environment where children have the time, space and resources to investigate, explore and experiment with experiences across all curriculum areas that interest and inspire them.

N Nature

We facilitate opportunities throughout the day for children to explore our natural outdoor space. Through our flexible program and routines we endeavour to respond to the changing needs and interests of the children as they make connections between what they are learning in both the indoor and outdoor environments. We recognise that we all contribute to the wellbeing of the environments we live in and we want the children to join us as we continue to explore the idea of sustainability for all.