



Stepping Stone West Beach Childcare & Early Development Centre

CENTRE PHILOSOPHY

Stepping Stone West Beach Childcare & Early Development Centre aims to create a remarkable experience for our community. We believe that building secure, supportive, nurturing and respectful relationships creates a sense of belonging where the children can develop confidence to grow and learn. Our goal is to promote inclusive education where children's rights and voices are not only heard but valued promoting a child's sense of agency.

We are proud to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the land.

Our Educators follow the principles of the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child which informs the Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics where the health, safety and wellbeing of each child is protected enabling them to reach their full potential.

Our educational program embraces the Early Years Learning Frame Work and National Quality Standards. Using this as our educational platform we will scaffold children's learning through intentional and responsive teaching, spontaneous experiences and critical reflection. Our educators support children's learning opportunities to build and extend on the outcomes of an experience. We encourage each child to develop a sense of – Belonging, Being and Becoming to maximise and drive their individual potential to create a love for learning.

Each child will have their own meaningful learning journey with the opportunity of diversity celebrated by our educators being responsive to individual abilities, interests and culture.

We acknowledge children are capable of initiating and directing their own learning as they are driven by their curiosity and imagination to understand and know more. Therefore we believe and encourage play-based learning as children achieve greater things when their unique qualities and abilities are acknowledged. Play based experiences through enjoyment build children's confidence to try new things, be involved in decision making, and promote discovery, improvisation and creativity.

Our natural environment is long recognised for its potential to inspire children. We encourage children to observe, interact and respect their environments through curiosity, using their senses and engaging in active exploration. Our planned and spontaneous indoor and outdoor learning experience will adopt a holistic approach - be safe yet challenging, encouraging risk taking, autonomy, self-help skills, problem solving and resilience.

Throughout the day the children will be provided with good healthy eating options and physical activity. This along with opportunities for relaxation time with quiet space for rest or sleep enable's children to make good choices, think new ideas, be creative and have fun.

In partnership with families we will focus on positive play and use redirection of interests where appropriate. We will encourage children to identify and name their emotions, to share empathy with others and resolve conflicts diplomatically and fairly. We will acknowledge children for their persistence and efforts to be better individuals.

We will embed environmental awareness into our daily education. We will strive to educate families and the community to make choices that respect our environment to enable the best future for our children.

We believe that trust, respect and collaboration are the basis for establishing strong relationships between the community, families and educators. Awareness through Information sharing is essential to supporting families in their child's learning and development.

Our educators are valued early childhood professionals. We recognise they are important role models in the lives of the children in our care. They are empowered to express their ideas and teaching beliefs through their educational programs. Ongoing quality professional development of all team members is important and promoted.

Through strong leadership the centre will strive to have a culture of learning through reflective practice. With a strong commitment to continuous improvement and desired outcomes for the children.

Written by Centre Director and Staff Team in consultation with children and families.