



# Stepping Stone Happy Valley Childcare & Early Development Centre

## Centre Philosophy

At Stepping Stone Happy Valley, we value the importance of feeling a sense of Belonging to people and place. Our educators welcome each family and child with kindness and respect, ensuring that all feel safe, secure and respected in our community. We believe that the establishment of supportive and kind relationships between educators, families and children, are paramount to children's wellbeing, and positive participation and learning in our centre and curriculum.

Our curriculum is informed and guided by the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), and centres around our children's emerging ideas and play. We believe that children's achievements in learning is best promoted through enjoyable play provocations which are responsive of our children's developing interests and strengths. Our knowledgeable and reflective educators consider our children's emerging interests and play to thoughtfully plan environments and provocations which represent our children, yet also provide new and interesting focuses for learning. We believe in expanding on what children already know and can do, as we foster their sense of Being and Becoming. Our holistic approach to children's learning supports their mental and physical wellbeing as we believe that healthy nutrition and physical activity are crucial to children's ongoing growth and development.

We believe that our children experience greater success in their development and learning outcomes, when our educators foster respectful and collaborative partnerships with their families, and when the curriculum is reflective of children's home lives and experiences. We welcome our families to share, reflect and collaborate on their children's learning and development, and invite them to share their personal talents, knowledge and experiences, to further enrich our curriculum and shared decision making.

We value and embrace the diversity and multiculturalism of our community, nurturing an inclusive and equitable environment for children, families and educators to learn and grow together.



Our stimulating learning environments and curriculum are inspired by our community's surrounding natural resources and our educators' pedagogical beliefs in the importance of Nature Play. With our service situated beside the Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, we recognise the opportunity to foster authentic and meaningful connections with this natural environment. Within our service and through engagements with this and other natural community resources, our children are supported to develop an understanding of their shared responsibility as Australians, to care for our environments and native animals. We continue to strengthen our environmental awareness and sustainable practices through partnerships with local and wider community members, contributing to the development of our curriculum.

We value ongoing reflective practice, as it supports our educators to continuously expand their professional knowledge and practices, which are guided by the vision of Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the National Quality Framework, the EYLF and our Centre Philosophy. Our educators believe reflective practice is a personal and collegial process, where respectful and collaborative reflective conversations enable us to provide greater care and education for our children, families and community.

Developed in consultation with educators, families and children.

