



Stepping Stone Para Hills Childcare & Early Development Centre

Centre Philosophy

Educators: Our educators at Stepping Stone Para Hills are proud to nurture and guide our children through their early years, building friendly, responsive and supportive relationships with each child that fosters their holistic wellbeing. We delight and share in the joy of each child's learning and achievements; promoted through continuity of educators, quality care, and meaningful engagements. We respect the diversity and knowledge of our educators and support ongoing professional development and reflective practice. Our educators bring a wealth of inspiration from their own interests and life experiences, moulding unique and innovative environments in which our children learn. We believe that educators can provide learning opportunities by role modelling practices and interactions.

Children: We see children as curious learners who are enthusiastic and capable participants in their own learning. We aim to provide children with a play based learning environment and plan a curriculum that is reflective of the Early Years Learning Framework, the National Quality Standards, and the authentic partnerships we have with our families. We respect each child as an active citizen of their community and value children's voice as an important part of their program. Children are celebrated throughout their play, learning and discoveries and this can be shown through our meaningful documentation, reflections and Storypark. We believe children need uninterrupted play where they can explore and engage in fun learning that stimulates creativity and critical thinking. We aim to provide children with a mixture of group and individual play that supports children's individual needs.

Health and wellbeing: Our children are provided with nutritional meals prepared by our centre cook, which excite the taste buds and expose them to cultural diversity. We believe that children have the right to feel safe both physically and emotionally. Educators support children's learning with a holistic approach that supports their overall wellbeing.

Families: We believe that children belong first to a family. Our educators value our families as children's first and most influential teachers and recognize that children are successful high achievers in their learning when families and educators collaborate in curriculum



decisions. We respect the expertise, values, culture, and beliefs of our families regarding their child's learning and wellbeing.

Community: Our educators welcome the involvement of community members into our service. We seek opportunities to enrich our curriculum and play opportunities through exciting and engaging incursions and excursions, promoting inclusion, diversity and health and wellness. We acknowledge the first Australians and hold high the importance of embedding practices that pay respect to the Kaurana people. We believe in the importance of exposing children to the diversity of their world through play, so they may feel connected and a sense of belonging.

Natural environment: We believe that the environment is the third teacher and plays an important role in children's learning. Para Hills' play spaces are engaging and inviting, flexible to the interests and needs of our children. Children are invited to participate in open play throughout the centre spending time with friends and siblings from other rooms. They are designed and presented with a love for nature and natural play opportunities, artistic, messy, explorative and musically enriched fun. Our children are invited to play between indoor and outdoor play areas as they desire, all of which are presented with an array of resources that promote their development, their connection with their world and social relationships.

Written in consultation with children, educators and families.

