



# Stepping Stone Northfield Childcare & Early Development Centre

## Centre Philosophy

### **Learning Environment**

At Stepping Stone Northfield, we pride ourselves on providing our children and their families with a warm, caring, safe, nurturing and inviting environment. Through the use of both our indoor and outdoor environments, we promote the children's learning through a play based curriculum, which is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework, that promotes the children's interests, autonomy, curiosity, resilience, decision making, collaborative learning and also individual learning.

Through reflective practices, we are able to provide children with a curriculum that is child focused and lead by their interests and their voices. Educators collaborate and reflect on children's learning to implement intentional and spontaneous experiences that foster children's decisions, choices and ability to make sense of their world.

### **Relationships / Community / Families**

As a centre, we endeavour to create, maintain and extend our relationships with families and the wider community, with strong relations with Northfield Kindergarten, which we will continue to strengthen. We continually seek parent and community input to be able to work in collaboration to further develop children's social, emotional, cognitive, linguistic, creative, spiritual and physical development, while engaging in play based learning.

### **Culture**

We value each child and their families as unique participants in our community, where their cultural and spiritual differences are respected and celebrated, creating a sense of place and belonging. Families' differences and similarities are embraced and their cultural diversity is valued.

### **Pedagogy**

Each of our educators provide the centre with their own pedagogy, which enables differences in teaching and learning, creating varied opportunities for the children to learn and develop. Educators build trusting and strong relationships with the children, which enables them to be confident and involved learners, where they are able to explore, investigate and be involved in inquiry based learning.



## **Sustainability**

We believe in teaching children about creating a sustainable future for themselves, our educators, families and our community. Through reflective practices, our centre sustainability officer works in collaboration with families, educators, children and the community to encourage knowledge, awareness and respect for the environment, through intentional learning opportunities. We offer children a varied menu, where they're given opportunities to explore and try new foods regularly, where sustainable practices around food disposal are encouraged and discussed.

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

