



Philosophy

At Stepping Stones Child Care Centre we believe that the rights of a child are paramount. Our Educators, staff and families have devised a Philosophy that is inclusive of the values and beliefs of offering an integrated service which include; care, education, health, safety, nutrition and wellbeing.

We provide a warm, safe, caring and stimulating environment that meets the holistic needs of every child. Through observation and interactions we provide experiences that support every child's development, unique interests and create opportunities to be confident and involved learners. Programs promote equality, inclusion and diversity whilst fostering all aspects of every child's development; physically, intellectually, socially and emotionally.

We are committed to providing an environment for children that encourages a sense of identity, wellbeing, confidence, connection and opportunities to contribute to the world around them. Stepping Stones Child Care Centre endeavours to meet the needs of children's natural curiosity through providing opportunities for children to experiment, take simple risks, discover, solve problems and find out about cause and effect for themselves, and the world around them. Each child has opportunities with guidance to develop self-discipline, take responsibility and achieve independence.

The vital role of parents, guardians and their families, as the first Educator is respected and supported. Stepping Stones Child Care Centre encourages parents, guardians and the wider community to be involved in the day to day operations of the Centre. In a number of ways; such as volunteering for special events/excursions, contributing as a member of the Parent Committee, being a part of our parents skills register or in other capacities, thus sharing in their child's experience at the Centre.

We recognise the commitment, skills and energy of our Educators are crucial elements of our Centre. We encourage Educators input and provide opportunities for on-going professional development. Their use of this information learnt influences the experiences provided each day.

Our Centre has a genuine regard for every child, their language, culture and achievements. Families are valued, cultural diversity is celebrated and reflected in our programs, menus and daily experiences. Stepping Stones Child Care Centre encourages the integration of children with special needs and diverse backgrounds. Our Centre is shared by Educators, staff, children and families from various backgrounds, our experiences and discussion will at all times reflect our respect for ourselves and for others.

Stepping Stones Child Care Centre Educators and staff seek to be a resource to parents, guardians, students, and Child Care Service providers within our wider community, thus enabling these individuals to form and share part of our program.

This document links to the following CCQA Principles: Quality Practices Guide (2005) – Principle 3.1
Reviewed in consultation with educators and parent committee members, current at October 2010.

Source:

- Stepping Stones Child Care Centre Educators, staff, parents, guardians, children and family members.
- Extract from *Putting Children First*, the magazine of the NCAC Issue 29 March 2009, by Phillip Rowell
http://www.ncac.gov.au/pcf/Ethics_a_part%20of_everyday_practice_Mar09.pdf
- NCAC Developing a Service Philosophy, QIAS – Factsheet #1, by Jan Faulkner
http://www.ncac.gov.au/factsheets/qias_factsheet_1.pdf
- ACT Childcare Services Standards February 2009, r. 1.22
- Belonging, Being & Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

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