



Hawthorn Child Care Centre Philosophy

Hawthorn Child Care Centre aims to provide a warm and caring environment where all children, families, educators, and wider community members feel comfortable, welcome, respected and valued. We acknowledge our Centre is on the traditional lands of the Kaurua people.

We are guided in our everyday practice by professional documentation including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; the National Quality Framework; and the Early Years Learning Framework. We are committed to ensuring that the principles and practices of these documents underpin our everyday practice.

We recognise, respect, and support the rights of all children in our Centre. We are committed to supporting children to take a lead in decisions which impact them. We encourage children to be an active part of our curriculum planning process and are committed to ensuring that children have their voice heard and reflected to support their sense of belonging in our Centre community.

We support and promote the holistic development of each child in our Centre. We are committed to ensuring that all children are provided with a nurturing environment where they have the opportunity to play, develop, learn and participate. We draw on a wide range of theoretical, child, family, and community perspectives to guide our pedagogy, planning, and practice with our base always in the Early Years Learning Framework. Children will be given the opportunity and respect to play, learn and develop based on their individual developmental needs, interests and experiences, whilst also being supported to succeed and develop within a wider learning community.

We believe and respect that each child, family, and educator is different and each individual provides a variety of ideas, perspectives, and skills to our Centre community. We are committed to the full inclusion of every child and family in our service. As committed educators we will ensure that all children and families will be treated without bias and we will strive to build secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships with each child in our care. We recognize the importance of these relationships to the children in our care.

We acknowledge that every family has different needs and circumstances and our leadership and educators acknowledge and respect this. We are committed to recognising each family individually. Each family is treated with empathy, equity and respect no matter their cultural heritage, parenting values and beliefs, background, or financial status. We believe in communicating effectively with families to ensure they feel connected to the Centre and we welcome and encourage all family input and participation.

We acknowledge and respect the knowledge, wisdom, and relationship each family has with their child. We are committed to working in partnerships with families to ensure that educators and families work collaboratively towards the best outcomes for each child.

We recognize the importance and value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and perspectives. We are committed to providing a learning environment that embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's heritage, cultures, and perspectives as we work towards Reconciliation as both a Centre and a wider community.

We believe in participating in, and contributing to, the wider community. We are committed to working with children and families to support their sense of belonging and active participation in our local and global communities.

We believe that sustainability is a fundamental lesson for all children to learn as they grow and make their mark on the world. We are committed to adopting sustainable methods for our day-to-day management of the service. We recognise the importance of connections to nature for the children in our care and are committed to providing children with a natural environment where they can explore and share wonder in the beauty of the natural world as well as learning the importance of caring for the natural environment.

We believe in the importance of transparency, accountability, and commitment to our stakeholders in the governance of the service. We embrace, and are committed to, continuous quality improvement in all areas of our practice.

Our goal as a service is to work collaboratively as professional educators to provide the highest quality education and care for children in our care, in conjunction with children, families, and the wider community.