



Stirling Community Early Learning Centre

Our Philosophy

Learning Through Play

We believe play is how children learn best. Play allows for holistic learning and development and supports children's individual interests, strengths and needs.

We are committed to providing a holistic approach to teaching and learning. Our programs are play based and built around the key concepts, principles and outcomes described in the Early Years Learning Framework.

Our play-based learning activities are supported by intentional teaching as we seek to extend on, scaffold and challenge children's thinking, interests and ideas.

We believe in providing a lot of open ended and uninterrupted play in an effort to foster children's creativity and individuality.

Children are supported to play both individually and interactively, to experiment, explore, and to *Be, Belong and Become* (EYLF, 2009).



Relationships

Relationships with children and their families form the foundation of our philosophy and practices at Stirling Community Early Learning Centre. Staff seek to build strong, positive, respectful and trusting relationships with all children and families.

Families are regarded as children's first and most important educators. Strong partnerships with children and their families form the basis of our curriculum and we seek to build relationships with parents based on trust, honesty and shared goals.

We believe the relationship that exists between educators and children is central to the learning process and providing quality care and education.

Our interactions and relationships with children are guided by the *Marte Meo* approach. This places great importance on educators' interactions and communication to support children's learning and development. We also offer primary care and seek to support all children to have a strong sense of security and wellbeing.



Image of the Child

Our centre is inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach, with our programs being child centred and built on children's individual interests, abilities and needs.

We believe that children are important, capable, contributing members of our community. Children are viewed as being competent, inquisitive, diverse, creative, playful, social and emotional individuals. We take a holistic view of each child and celebrate their strengths, interests and diversity, while also supporting them to feel empowered and confident and able to take risks. Children are supported to learn at their own pace and in their preferred style. We recognise and value children's many different ways to communicate and express themselves, as promoted in Reggio Emilia's notion of the 100 Languages of Children (Loris Malguzzi, Reggio Emilia).

We embrace each child's uniqueness and aim to reflect and celebrate every child's and family's culture within our programs. We acknowledge and respect our nation's first people and are committed to promoting and interweaving Aboriginal perspectives and culture in our teaching and learning.



Environment

Our educational programs place great importance on nature-based learning with Bush Kindy and Beach Kindy programs, and a strong focus on outdoor play experiences. Our Bush Kindy program is based on the Forest Schools Programs that originated in Europe, where children have the opportunity to take the lead in playing, exploring, imagining and learning in a forest or natural environment. Outdoor spaces with plants, trees, rocks, mud and water invite open ended interactions and play, spontaneity, risk taking, problem solving and a connection with nature. Nature based learning is also embedded into our programmed experiences at the centre, both indoors and outdoors.

Our centre aspires to the Reggio Emilia principle of the *Environment as the Third Teacher*. We seek to provide children with a safe and welcoming environment in which they feel secure and valued. Our aim is to create stimulating and inviting learning environments, both indoors and outdoors, in which children can become enthusiastic, inquiring and challenged in their thinking.

We place high importance on using natural resources and materials to further enhance children's connection with and learning about nature and the natural world. Education for sustainability is also embedded into our programs as we promote sustainable practices to teach children how to look after their environment.

