

The Gums Philosophy

We believe that children are capable, confident and competent learners, and aim to provide a play based, nature rich, child initiated program reflecting this view. We believe it is essential for children to use their imagination, to be curious, to be creative, to develop friendships and to have fun.

We recognise the rights of children as citizens in our community and as such value the importance of giving children a voice. Through active listening we enable children to express their interests and needs, to share their emotions, to develop confidence and a sense of self, and to share their learning.

We aim to develop and maintain strong links within the local community and acknowledge and incorporate the resources available that are provided through our relationship with local schools, businesses and the environment. We encourage an awareness and respect for our environment.

Our goals in implementing this philosophy are:

In relation to children:

- to feel emotionally secure but with the freedom of choice, and opportunities for risk and challenge.
- to adopt inclusive practices and diversity in our centre
- to provide healthy food options

in relation to educators:

- high staff morale, open communication and team work
- to recognise the importance of systematic evaluation and the review of everyday practice for continual improvement.
- to value professional development opportunities that enable us to engage in the learning of best practice and latest research.
- the belief that children should be able to grow in knowledge through a creative and evolving learning framework (programs/policies/procedures) that aims to meet the educational, developmental, and emotional needs of each child.
- to be inspired by Reggio Emilia practices

For families and the community:

- to value and respect the partnership between educators and families in sharing each child's learning journey
- to implement practices to prevent and help limit the spread of illness and infection
- to share with the community the importance of quality early childhood education for all

The centre's philosophy is reviewed to keep pace with emerging trends in early childhood care and education.

Date of Review: November 2014

Date of Last Review: December 2015, February 2017

Date of Next Review: January 2018