

## **C.a.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre - Site philosophy**

C.a.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre is an integrated site with many components including Community managed Long Day Care, Department of Education and Care (DECD) funded Preschool, Child and Family Health Services, Learning Together, a range of Parenting Support Programs, and Adult Education and Training. These services work together towards a shared commitment to supporting health, social, emotional and educational outcomes for children and their families.

Our practices reflect the belief that children are competent learners from birth and unique in their own individual way. Educators support children to have a chance to try things for themselves, to build a sense of optimism and positive well-being.

We believe that our family friendly environment provides opportunities for children and their families to visit and participate in activities and/or network with others from the community. We believe families have a critical role in early development of their children's learning. We believe young children are happier and achieve more when early year's educators work together with families to share insights, aspirations and documentation to support and extend children's learning and development. Primary care giving practices provide the framework for Educators to work with families, where all interactions will be caring and affirming and reflect a shared understanding of each child's strength and abilities.

Play is fundamental to young children's learning as they engage in exploration, imagination and investigation, while socialising and communicating with children and adults around them. Our environments both indoors and outdoors are valued equally as important learning spaces. We believe the role of the learning environment is to provide flexible, ever-evolving materials and spaces to enable children to participate uninterrupted, to work alone, or in small intimate groups or as a member of a large group.

As educators of young children we have an active and significant role in ensuring children experience wonder in their world. Educating for sustainability is a strength in our curriculum. The children have many opportunities to engage in gardening, recycling and connecting with nature. Educators work with children to develop skills, knowledge and dispositions to connect them to their environment and their community.

Children need healthy food, quality sleep and lots of exercise to assist with brain and body development. Our routines and programs encourage children to eat a wide variety of nutritious foods every day.

The quality of Educators is the key to the provision of high quality care and education of young children. This notion is supported through an environment of trust and respect with the community and in a culture of continual reflection and renewal of ideas and understandings. Educators are actively encouraged to access and continue training and professional development. We are all lifelong learners.

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