

What we believe at Ingle Farm Children's Centre

VISION: Ingle Farm Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting works in partnership to support babies, children and families to flourish in a safe, welcoming, caring, community hub.

Principles:

Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships;

Children, families and staff feel a sense of belonging when they feel safe, connected, and valued.

Positive partnerships/relationships with families and community are fostered with the aim of supporting all to thrive.

An environment of trust and respect supports children to develop their own understandings about how to interact with others, how we are each responsible for our actions and the value of collaboration.

Quality teaching and learning;

Educators, health professionals and service providers are responsive to the strengths, needs, interests, ideas and abilities of all children. We build on the knowledge children bring to the children's centre to ensure that learning is relevant and engaging.

Children, educators and families work together to identify strengths and to plan for future learning through a play based curriculum. Learning is assessed and reported to children and their families and used for future planning.

High expectations and equity

Educators, health professionals and service providers have high expectations for all babies, children and families, recognising their uniqueness, their culture, customs, language, beliefs, family structure, kinship systems, circumstances and capabilities. We challenge inequities, promote inclusion and make decisions to ensure the rights of babies, children, families and community are upheld and respected.

We support babies, children and families by recognising and responding to opportunities that will enhance success and well being.

Our values:

*** Respect**

***Integrity**

***Collaboration**

***Equity**

***Compassion**

Ingle Farm Children's Centre Philosophy

At Ingle Farm Children's Centre we believe that:

- The land we meet and learn upon is the traditional land of the Kurna people. We respect and value the culture, heritage and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Positive, respectful, reciprocal and collaborative relationships are crucial for success, learning and well being
- Every child is a unique, curious and capable learner with rights and responsibilities
- Children learn best through play where they are able to actively participate, make decisions about their learning, problem solve and explore
- Diversity enriches our centre. We recognise, respect and value each child and family's "...many ways of living, being and knowing" (EYLF)
- We have an important role to play in caring for the environment, promoting and contributing to a sustainable future through the programmes, services and actions we take as part of our every day practises.

Children will be supported to extend and build on their prior knowledge, interests, skills and abilities and to become;

- Interdependent
- Imaginative
- Creative
- Curious
- Persistent
- Confident
- Resilient
- Respectful risk-taker
- Problem solvers
- Collaborative learners

The curriculum, programmes and services will be engaging, inviting, challenging and will support children to discover new learning.

To achieve this **educators** will:

- **Provide** an equitable play based programme based upon the input of children, families and educators, designed to reflect the rights, needs, abilities and interests of all children including children with special rights.
- **Assess** children's learning and then plan and implement the curriculum to support children's social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, physical and creative development and wellbeing.
- **Report** to families through individual learning plans, statement of learning, portfolios, formal and informal conversations

- **View** themselves as lifelong learners and researchers and so will be involved in on-going **professional development** and reflection to benefit the children, families and their own continuing education.

The **Community Services** within the Children's Centre understands that when children and families feel *included, connected and informed* they have greater opportunities to thrive.

To achieve this community services will;

- Support children and families to *connect* with one another, with services and with the wider community
- Ensure children and families have the opportunity to *participate* in the Children's Centre and their community
- Support children and families to *empower* themselves and encourage them to have their voices heard
- Provide programs, services and activities that have been *planned in partnership* with families
- Work in *collaboration* with children, families, the community and service providers
- *Listen to and advocate for* children and families and the wider community regarding highlighted gaps and opportunities
- Work *innovatively* and passionately to enable children and families to thrive
- Walk together with the Aboriginal community in our work towards Reconciliation

The **Allied Health** program provides occupational therapy and speech pathology, working in collaboration with the children centre staff, families and wider community to build their capacity to support optimal child development. The focus is on early intervention with a focus of supporting children aged 0 – 3 years of age.

To achieve this allied health staff will:

- Provide centre staff with support and professional learning opportunities through formal and informal methods such as after hours workshops and weekly debriefs and discussions. Support may be provided around areas including: self-regulation and sensory processing, speech and language strategies to assist with communication and behaviour, activities to develop foundation skills for motor skill development.
- Liaise with staff, family and community providers to develop community programs *in partnership* to ensure programs meet the needs of the wider community.
- Provide support to children and families through supported playgroups and/or parent/child programs which encourage families to be a part of the community. These groups also aim to provide a safe, fun and positive environment for children and families in order to promote children's development.
- Complete screenings of children's developmental needs and liaise with staff and families to support these needs. Where long term therapy would be beneficial, referral to appropriate services is supported by therapists.

All children's centre staff will be professional and approachable

Families, educators, health professionals and community service providers will work together to support babies and children on their life journey.