

## Torrens Valley Children's Centre: Philosophy Statement

Torrens Valley Children's centre is a place where adults and children work together to create a respectful, caring and inclusive learning environment which is responsive to the needs of children in our community. We value the uniqueness of our birth to 5 years centre and our policies and practices are guided by the values that are held by our parents and wider community:

Respect                      Communication                      Sharing                      Compassion                      Honesty  
Generosity                      Love                      Consideration                      Teamwork                      Adventure

We believe:

- That children are competent and capable learners from birth and we recognise the uniqueness & potential of each child
- That positive relationships are central to wellbeing and learning
- That young children learn best through play
- In the "here and now" of children's lives and that the early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future, but also about the present
- That children are co-contributors and active participants in their learning and need opportunities to make decisions, challenge themselves and take risks in their learning

We support children as competent and capable learners through:

- Having high expectations of all learners and communicating this to children and families
- Using an emergent planning process to create engaging open-ended play based learning environments/programs, that are flexible & responsive to children's emerging needs and interests
- Developing children's growing autonomy through many opportunities to share decision making and co-construct learning and meaning together
- Stimulating children's sense of awe and wondering and "stretching" their thinking, through building on what they already know and can do and creating a desire to want to learn more
- Offer challenge, adventure and risk in the learning environment so that children develop resilience, persistence, problem solving and risk taking
- Connect children to their natural world through learning in, about and for their environment
- Developing an understanding of culture – developing an acceptance and respect for different ways of being, knowing and learning
- Working collaboratively across the site to support continuity of learning for all children

We believe:

- **Families** are children's first and most influential educators and that partnerships with families are integral to high quality education and care programs.

As a centre we will build partnerships with our families through:

- Acknowledging, valuing and including children's home learning and including ongoing information collected from families to inform our curriculum planning & decision making
- Develop open, honest, consistent, respectful and reciprocal communication strategies between staff and families
- Grow and nurture respectful partnerships with all families, acknowledging each families own unique cultural identity & beliefs and parenting styles
- Actively encouraging them to take an active role in their child's learning

We believe:

- Our **community** is dynamic, with its own identity, attitudes and values, offering a wealth of knowledge and resources.
- Making meaningful connections with our community provides richness and depth to our learning programs

As a centre we will connect with our community:

- Build authentic connections with our local community by planning for learning "beyond our gate"
- Build strong, collaborative partnerships with our local schools in order to support effective transition for both children and families
- Willingly share our knowledge and experience with the wider community

We believe:

- In the individual and collective strengths of **the educators within our centre**, who each bring with them a range of personal and professional skills & knowledge, and life experiences that enrich our learning environments
- Staff are committed to working towards the best interests of children, families and community
- That being a powerful learner and engaging in reflective practice are central to being professional responsive educators

AS A CENTRE WE WILL DEVELOP A COLLEGIATE AND INNOVATIVE STAFF TEAM THROUGH:

- Using a strength based approach to the working environment, with a focus on building capacity within our team
- Providing opportunities for staff to work collaboratively, share decision making, & learn from and with each other
- Creating a culture where critical reflection and ongoing learning is encouraged and supported
- Support staff to seek professional challenges and take up opportunities to increase professional knowledge, understanding & skills through a variety of internal & external professional development opportunities such as training programs, workshops and engaging in research and collaboration with professional learning communities & networks