

Statement of Philosophy

We aim to provide our community with high-quality childcare. We are an inclusive and welcoming care environment where children are valued individuals with unique personalities, differing needs, capabilities and backgrounds. We are child focused and aim to provide a fun, flexible and culturally inclusive program which allows free choice and ensures rights of all children are maintained. OSHC embraces the school values of Be Brave, Be Curious, Belong.

Children and Education

We value the importance of play and encourage all children to participate in a range of learning experiences and activities which are child initiated, spontaneous and intentional activities. Educators base their decisions on reflective practice and children's interests and wellbeing, and we encourage and promote an inclusive and diverse program, considering children's cultural, linguistic and family backgrounds. We strive for children to connect to their natural environment and learn about sustainable practices. We recognise that children are individually unique and learn best through play and in a fun environment where they feel safe, secure, valued, free to express themselves, take risks, challenge themselves, problem solve, explore, build resilience and persistence. We also encourage children to have 'down time' through rest and relaxation.

Our program is guided by the My Time Our Place V2.0 Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards for Early Childhood and values the input from the children as well as from families, educators and the community.

Rights of the Children

Each child has the right to be an active member of the community in which they live; to have their individual and cultural identity recognised and respected; to express their opinions and have their views considered in any decisions that may affect them. The National Quality Standard reflects Australia's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the obligation of all those who work with Children to protect Children from harm, respect their dignity and privacy and safeguard and promote every Child's wellbeing.

Our Practices

We collaborate and connect with a range of Children's Service bodies for guidance and expert knowledge. We believe that connecting and implementing practices in line with Flagstaff Hill Primary School will provide children with a care environment that is predictable, nurturing and consistent with experiences at school.

Sustainability

Our service values and understands the need for sustainability and environmental awareness and aims to implement strategies that connect the children to their world around them. Children partake in gardening, recycling and sustainability practices in everyday routines. By planning activities that focus on respecting the environment, we provide the children with the opportunity to be competent, efficient and mindful individuals.

Staff

The OSHC Educator Team is highly skilled who are sensitive, warm, caring and aware and responsive to the developmental needs of the children. Continuity of Educators is significant, and we aim to achieve this by providing a friendly, supportive work environment. OSHC Educators model positive behaviour, respect and manners, focussing on wellbeing and empathy whilst guiding children's play.

Families

All families are welcomed and respected. Building relationships, communication and partnerships with families creates a strong sense of belonging and connectedness. We believe children respond and learn best when there is a positive and collaborative relationship between Educators and families. We encourage positive and open communication, respect families' beliefs, customs, language and culture. We encourage partnerships between families and the service and welcome families' participation and feedback in the operation of the service.

Physical Environment

Our service is designed to provide children, Educators and families with a sense of belonging where they feel comfortable, safe and valued. We encourage all children to be creative, challenge themselves and support them to take risks in their learning within the indoor, outdoor and nature play learning environments. We believe play benefits children to develop their learning of imagination, curiosity, confidence, persistence, resilience, concentration, as well as developing their skills in problem solving, self-regulation, resourcefulness, collaboration and ability to self-assess risk.

Reconciliation

Flagstaff OSHC is committed to Reconciliation. We seek to embed diverse cultural practices, celebration, and education into our service to foster an environment of belonging and pride for children, families and educators. We believe in the importance of building strong and meaningful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children and communities and are passionate in continuing our contributions towards reconciliation.

Acknowledgement of Country

Flagstaff Hill OSHC acknowledges the Kurna peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and their native title rights to Country. We honour their spiritual relationship with Country and respect Elders past, present and emerging.