OUR PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT
Keithcot Farm Children’s Centre provides accessible, flexible quality care and education for children from birth to school entry in a play-based program that is underpinned by current national and international early childhood development research. We acknowledge and value the cultural background and diversity of children and families for their optimal wellbeing and engagement. We believe that a statement of the Centre’s philosophy changes as new insights are gained and practise is evaluated.

Children
We have a philosophy of self-initiated play-based learning where children are integrated with siblings and others for the majority of the session. Children are formally divided into smaller groups for more developmentally appropriate learning experiences for short periods of time. We believe that a developmentally appropriate curriculum (in accordance with The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – Belonging, Being, Becoming), which is child centred, focussed on play, open ended, challenging, inclusive and acknowledges children’s prior experiences within a secure and happy atmosphere will complement the home environment and nurture children's dispositions to learning. Children are actively involved in being environmentally responsible.

Families
Parents are their child’s primary educators and at Keithcot Farm Children’s Centre, we value this partnership and in the delivery of inclusive, high quality care and education for all children. We provide families with information about their child’s learning experiences, involvement, development and progress and encourage their contribution to our program. We support families with information that will build their capacity in relation to their parenting.

Staff
At Keithcot Farm Children’s Centre we employ a professional staff team who have a range of tertiary early childhood qualifications, training and experience in teaching and children’s services and who work together with families and the community to provide a range of services. We believe in an ongoing commitment to supporting each staff member’s professional development and a strong focus on continuous improvement in care and learning for young children and their families. Sustainable practices are embedded in service operations and consistently promoted in the everyday program.

Management
We offer all families the opportunity to be involved in the governance and planning of policies and processes that represent the whole of the Centre through a Governing Council elected annually by the Centre families.

Communities
We are committed to promoting community awareness of children’s services through effective partnerships and networking with government and non-government organisations, parenting and community groups. These collaborative partnerships assist us in developing integrated and sustainable services to support and provide the best opportunities for every family and child. We develop positive relationships with neighbouring schools to enable seamless, effective transitions.

TO BE REVIEWED: February 2014
SOURCED: South Australian Curriculum Standards Accountability Framework
Virtual Village South Australian Early Years Report (2005)
Dr Fraser Mustard – Investing in the Early Years
Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia 2009
National Quality Framework (2011)