

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT NQS 7.1.1 Version 12

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 reflect on the range of programs we offer and this is documented in our Quality Improvement Plan as we work towards continuous improvement. We acknowledge and value the cultural background and diversity of children, families and staff for their optimal wellbeing and engagement. We support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children

We have a philosophy of self-initiated play based learning balanced with a program of intentional teaching 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 strive to deliver a developmentally appropriate curriculum, The Early Years Learning Framework – *Belonging, Being, Becoming*, its Vision, Principles and Practices. The EYLF is child centred, focussed on play, open ended, challenging, inclusive and acknowledges children's prior experiences within a secure and happy atmosphere and 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, ensuring 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 and Educators

At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre we employ a professional staff team who have a range of tertiary or post graduate early childhood qualifications, training and experience in teaching, children's services, Community Development and Allied Health services - including a Speech Pathologist and an Occupational Therapist 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 governance and the review of policies and processes that represent the whole of the Centre through a Governing Council elected annually by the Children's 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 and continuity of curriculum across the prior to school and schooling sector.

We believe that a statement of the Centre's philosophy will change as new insights are gained and practice is evaluated.

CREATED: March 2008

REVIEWED: November 2008, November 2009, November 2010, November 2011, November 2012, February 2013, November 2013, November 2014, September 2015, November 2016, November 2017, November 2017

TO BE REVIEWED: November 2018

SOURCED: South Australian Curriculum Standards Accountability Framework
Virtual Village South Australian Early Years Report (2005)
Dr Fraser Mustard – Investing in the Early Years
Ferre Laevers – Wellbeing and Involvement (2003)
Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia 2009
National Quality Framework (2011)
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child