

# Rainforest ELC Philosophy

At *Rainforest Early Learning Centre* we believe giving everyone the ability to learn together in a safe, secure, challenging, creative and homely environment. We believe each child to be an individual with unique abilities, wants and needs. Educators, parents, children and the community work together as partners to enrich children's life and learning.

## Our Aim is:

- To open our service to all children and their families regardless of race, gender and ability; ensuring to show respect acceptance that each family is unique and different, i.e. two parent families, blended families, same gender parent families, single parent families and foster care parent families
- To embrace, acknowledge and respect each family's culture, beliefs and attitudes; inclusive practices promotes family contribution to the program and children's learning
- To promote diversity, respect and trust in each other, our community and the natural environment
- To provide children, families and educators with the opportunity to appreciate and understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their histories and experiences
- To accept and welcome children and adults with additional needs and their families as respected members of our community; inclusion is a right and is about diversity.
- To keep families involved and informed about their child's learning and developmental progress throughout the year: this can be done verbally or through the use of emails and Facebook pages (general & secret)
- To create a sense of being and belonging amongst the service's community, thus allowing parents, children and educators to feel valued, and supported
- To be aware and informed about community events and resources and allowing community members to visit and contribute to children's learning; ensure to share community news and events with families and together participate to be an involved community member
- To nurture and promote each individual child strengths, needs and individuality
- For children to learn at their own pace/capabilities and develop good self-esteem, initiative, creativity, and curiosity; each child's style of learning is valued promoted and encouraged
- For children to make choices and develop self-help skills in a positive and supportive environment; independence and participation in everyday tasks, routines and chores allows the child to contribute to the smooth running of the service and enhance his/her sense of belonging
- To encourage, educate and role model sustainable living, attitudes and practices; allow children to make connection between home and school by incorporating same home recycling practices at school thus allowing children to feel valued and appreciated as they share their learnt knowledge and practices with their peers and educators (Recycling station with labelled items to be collected; i.e bottles and cans/books/clothing, etc...)
- To promote and instil healthy lifestyle and habits in children's lives with a focus on being active and happy; allow children to learn about safety practices within their home, school and community.
- To seek parents, children and the community's input in providing high quality care for our children. Together, as partners, we will plan, evaluate and provide a programme, which promotes and encourages equality, diversity, inclusion, discovery, investigation, creativity and growth in all areas of development.
- To plan and implement a well-balanced program that allows children to participate and engage in both traditional hands on experiences and technology based learning; the main focus is to guide encourage and promote learning which allow the child to explore, create, problem solve, consider, think, listen and view critically, make decisions, observe, document, research, investigate ideas, demonstrate learning, take turns and learn with and from one another.
- To provide and promote healthy lifestyles, habits and practices for future living; menus, programs and routines will guide and support children's learning and experiences
- To encourage and support educators professional knowledge and growth
- To recognise and embrace each educator as an individual with individual strengths, knowledge and experience
- To provide and allocate times and resources for educators to discuss, plan, implement and evaluate a well balanced and child focused program
- To develop, review and implement appropriate policies which have been designed and modified with input from management, educators and families

**We know that parent/guardian support is very valuable in gaining information, ideas and suggestions toward the best possible care for the children in our service!**

Above all we want all of the children in our care to learn through play and mostly to have fun whilst doing so.