

# My Stepping Stones Coogee

## Centre Philosophy



At My Stepping Stones Coogee (MSSC) we believe that the first five years of a child's life are fundamentally important for shaping a child's future. By going the extra mile in everything we do our environment is fun and nurturing feeling like a "home away from home". This supports children to embrace their natural curiosity and enthusiasm for life.

Our educational program is reflective of the emergent curriculum and adheres to the guidelines set by the NQF and the Early Years Learning Framework. With a balance between child-led and educator supported learning directed by the child's values, abilities and interests. We place emphasis on "learning how to learn, not the product as the end result" (John Dewey).

We value and promote a healthy lifestyle by incorporating the NSW initiative "Munch 'n' Move" and "Get up and Grow" encouraging physical development and healthy eating. We have an onsite chef who prepares Nutritionally balanced meals using fresh and organic ingredients.

Each educator endeavours to work with integrity and trust to create a stable and consistent learning environment. It is for this reason we only employ dedicated and professional fulltime staff providing a higher staff to child ratio than is required.

MSSC recognises that parents are the child's primary educator and it is essential that we build a strong and close relationship. We understand that they provide us with helpful information relating to cultural backgrounds, heritage, family ideas, values and beliefs. We appreciate and recognise that the partnership between home and childcare is paramount to the child's learning and that it is through these partnerships we can make learning experiences for the children more meaningful and relevant.

All children enrolled in our service will be treated with equality, and their cultural and linguistic diversity embraced and acknowledged. The integration of children with additional and diverse lifestyles will be supported.

The service will strive to give back to our community where we can and support and liaise with the local Muru-ora-dral clan of the Eora people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which our Centre stands.

MSSC places a high importance on enriching the children's awareness of the environment and a sense of connection to the world around us. By awakening and encouraging each child with the lifelong values and behaviours to live sustainably whilst gaining the knowledge and understanding of the environment and how it relates to our society.

As Educators and as a Centre we will commit to ongoing training and development and strive to be better tomorrow than we are today (Loris Malaguzzi).

Thank you



Our centre philosophy is more than a mission statement. Our philosophy is the 'why' behind how we work with children, their families and each other. It is a combination of our beliefs; values and hopes for the educational program that we provide and its outcomes.

The centre philosophy is a 'living document' that reflects the values and beliefs of the current management, educators and families that belong to My Stepping Stones Coogee.

Your input and feedback on the centre philosophy is important to us, we encourage you to email us and let us know what you believe to be the three most important requirements within early childhood education and care.

We look forward to your response.

Kind Regards

My Stepping Stones Coogee Staff