

A-3 Philosophy

Epping Heights OSHC

NQS

QA. 4.2.1	Professional collaboration.
QA. 4.2.2	Professional standards.
QA. 5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child.
QA. 5.2.1	Collaborative learning.
QA. 6.1.2	Parent views are respected.
QA. 6.1.3	Families are supported.
QA. 6.2.3	Community engagement.
QA. 7.1.1	Service philosophy and purpose.
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems.
QA. 7.2.1	Continuous improvement
QA. 7.2.2	Educational leadership.
QA. 7.2.3	Development of professionals.

National Regulations

Reg.55(c)	Quality Improvement Plans
Reg. 170	Policies and Procedures to be followed

POLICY STATEMENT

Epping Heights OSHC. is dedicated to the safety, well-being and development of all children attending the service. The Philosophy will be the core values by which the staff, Management and children will work towards at the Centre. The Philosophy will be reviewed annually by all stakeholders to ensure its relevance to the community.

RELATED POLICIES

- EPPING HEIGHTS OSHC Policy A – 12: Policy Development and Review
- EPPING HEIGHTS OSHC Policy A – 15: Role of the Management Committee
- EPPING HEIGHTS OSHC Policy A – 18: National Quality Framework
- EPPING HEIGHTS OSHC Policy E – 2: Written programs

PROCEDURE

The Centre Philosophy is an expression of the purpose, values and beliefs of the service. It states what the service aims to provide for the children and parent /guardians in the community. It is the foundation on which to build Centre goals, policies and procedures and will direct the focus of everything that happens in the Centre. The Centre Philosophy will be an important part of ongoing learning and reflective practice and will inform the centre setup of the Indoor and Outdoor Environments and daily routines (My Time, Our Place).

The Centre Philosophy may be assessed annually for its currency and reviewed as necessary. The development and/or review of the Centre Philosophy requires input from key stakeholders including Educators and Management. The Philosophy will be used to inform the development of the Quality Improvement Program in line with Regulation 55.

PHILOSOPHY

Epping Heights OSHC Care exists in order to serve the families and children of our local school, and through Vacation Care, the wider Epping community. We provide quality out of school hours care based on a sound understanding of the learning process and the developmental stages of primary aged children.

Our Philosophy evolves in relation to meet the needs of our community, driven by a commitment to quality improvement. We achieve this through community consultation and input, with regular evaluation of our services to ensure compliance with legislation and alignment to current industry standards and recommendations.

We aim to:

- provide a safe, healthy, positive and nurturing environment for every child where their thoughts and opinions are valued.
- meet the individual needs of all children and their families as a priority and include them in decision-making.
- support the local and wider community by sharing our knowledge, skills and resources and engaging in community activities.

We recognise:

- the importance of child-centred play as well as some structured activities in a child's development.
- the value of ensuring that staff are given opportunities for professional development to continue the improvement of our centre and to stay abreast of changes and developments in the industry.
- the significance of inclusivity in our program in relation to diversity in culture, gender and ability.
- the traditional custodians of the land upon which our Centre is situated and promise to foster respect for indigenous cultures.

We are committed to:

- providing a quality, fun program that allows the children to choose how their time will be spent at OSHC to foster a sense of ownership and belonging.
- ensuring that management support and communicate effectively with parents, children and staff and that legislative requirements are upheld to promote the safety and welfare of the children in care.

SOURCES

- National Quality Framework
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- My Time, Our Place – Framework for School Age Care in Australia V2.0
- United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child
- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- Early Childhood Australia’s Code of Ethics
- ACECQA Factsheet: Reviewing your service philosophy

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