

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 provides high-quality out-of-school hours care, grounded in an understanding of primary-aged children's learning and developmental stages. In addition to serving the families and children of our local school we also serve the broader Epping community through Vacation Care.

Our Philosophy evolves to meet the needs of our community, driven by a commitment to continuous improvement. We achieve this through community consultation, regular service evaluation, and adherence to legislation and industry standards.

Our aims are to:

- provide a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment where every child's thoughts and opinions are valued.
- Prioritise the individual needs of all children and their families, including them in decision-making.
- support the local and wider community by sharing our knowledge and engaging in community activities.

We recognise:

- The importance of balancing child-centred play with structured activities for development.
- the value of professional development for educators to improve our centre and to stay updated with industry changes.
- the significance of inclusivity in our program regarding culture, gender and ability.

- the traditional custodians of the land on which our Centre is situated and pledge to respect indigenous cultures.

We are committed to:

- Offering a fun quality program that allows the children to choose how they spend their time at OSHC, fostering a sense of ownership and belonging.
- ensuring effective communication and support from management to parents, children and educators, while upholding legislative requirements to promote children’s safety and welfare.

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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