



# Unley Community Childcare Centre Philosophy Statement

***At Unley Community we believe in supporting children, families and educators to belong to a community, be in the moment and become who they want to be.***

**Child Centred:** Children are at the centre of everything we do. We focus on nurturing positive, secure relationships between children and educators as this is key to strengthening children's sense of identity, promoting dispositions for learning and advancing children's development and interests. We believe that children need to develop a sense of trust with their educators and a sense of belonging in their environments to have the confidence to explore, take risks, try new experiences, broaden their world view and extend their learning.

Our service promotes children's health and wellbeing by providing a nutritious and varied menu that reflects the diverse cultures at our service, offering children opportunities for physically active play and rest and relaxation, and using recommended hygiene practices. At our service protecting the rights and best interests of the children is our number one priority, our service aims to both safeguard and promote children's physical and mental health, safety and wellbeing by providing a child safe environment and by privileging the child's voice.

**Collaboration with Community:** Families are an integral part of our service with educators working in collaboration with them to ensure their children are cared for and educated in a way that reflects their families culture, expectations, values and beliefs. Families are encouraged to have input into the day-to-day life of their children to ensure they experience smooth transitions between the home and centre environment.

The staff team works in collaboration with each other to provide a welcoming physical and human environment that is consistent across the service. Our centre believes that everyone deserves to feel a sense of belonging and are given every opportunity to succeed regardless of circumstances. Our team culture is one that values the individuality and diversity of its community, where everyone is respected without discrimination or bias.

Community is key to our service, with all children, families and educators encouraged to give feedback on matters that affect them and participate via committees, centre events, and activities. We value open communication, and our community members are encouraged to have input into service operations and the future direction of our centre. We value the contributions that our community makes to our centre and aim to give back through the services that we offer.

**Curriculum:** Curriculum decisions are guided by the *Early Years Learning Framework: Belonging, Being, Becoming* with our service placing a strong emphasis on play-based learning, and using a holistic strength-based approach, our Centre uses an emergent curriculum while also providing opportunities for children to participate in spontaneous play, long term projects, and events.

Our service believes that every child is unique and capable and learns best when they have equitable opportunities to pursue and extend their own interests, to develop their sense of autonomy and independence, build relationships with their peers and engage in shared learning experiences, and have access to nurturing intentional educators who work with children to construct meaning and develop their own understandings, grow their sense of imagination and creativity, and investigate and problem solve.

**Commitment to Continuous Improvement:** We believe that ongoing reflection drives quality improvement, and that every family, child and member of our team brings diverse perspectives to our centre which we can use to grow together. Our service works towards exceeding the *National Quality Standards* by ensuring our team is guided by professional development, and centre policies and procedures that reflect recommended industry practices. The centre's Reconciliation Action Plan and Sustainability Plan work hand in hand to ensure our service cares for Country. New initiatives are being continually developed for children, families and staff to contribute to and participate in as our centre works towards embedding the three E's of sustainability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, cultures, languages, and pedagogies into our everyday practice.

## References

Early Years Learning Framework: Being Belonging and Becoming V2.0, 2022, Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for the Council of Australian Governments  
Guide to the Education and Care Service National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2020, Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority  
Unley Community Childcare Centre Policies and Procedures, updated version 2022/2023