

A-3 Philosophy

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. 7.2.2	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

The Kids Castle 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

- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy A – 12: Policy Development and Review
- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy A – 15: Role of the Management Committee
- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy A – 19: NQF
- THE KIDS CASTLE Policy E – 1: Written Programming

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 parents/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 will be reviewed annually as the centre undergoes review of the Quality Improvement Plan. The development and/or review of the Centre Philosophy requires input from key stakeholders including staff and Management.

The Philosophy will be used to inform the development of the Quality Improvement Program in line with Regulation 55.

Philosophy

At The Kids Castle, we believe that children are capable, competent & active learners.

We strive to support their growth and development by creating a safe and nurturing environment based on values and respect, where each child can participate in activities to enhance their individual development.

The Kids Castle provides a happy, stimulating, free-choice environment that is inviting, comfortable and inclusive of all children regardless of additional needs, diverse cultures or different beliefs. Our children are supported to engage freely in play experiences in a natural and creative way. They are also encouraged to initiate or contribute their ideas to the centre program.

The Kids Castle is a warm place where confidence is built, healthy forms of expression/ emotions are fostered and social skills are developed.

We aim to be supportive of all families and develop positive relationships between Staff, Children, Families, School and the wider Community.

Our aim is for children to:

- have a strong sense of identity
- be connected with and contribute to their world
- have a strong sense of wellbeing
- be effective communicators

The Program will:

- be varied and stimulating and focus on play and leisure activities
- involve the opinions of staff, children and parents to form the basis of the program
- provide opportunities for the children to use and develop social skills, explore and solve problems and engage in critical thinking.

- have a multicultural influence encouraging staff and children to be aware of their own world and develop positive attitudes towards cultural differences.

The staff will:

- provide a safe, secure and happy environment
- be sensitive to the uniqueness of each child
- take on continual learning and training
- develop a strong interpersonal bond between other staff, children and parents
- encourage, support and aid the children in their activities

The parents will:

- be encouraged to take an active role in the centre in sharing ideas and feedback.
- be encouraged to keep an open communication

Sources

- National Quality Framework
- Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011)
- 'My Time, Our Place' - Framework for School Age Care in Australia
- 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

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