

# OSHC Philosophy

St Simon Peter Outside School Hours Care Philosophy is guided by children's, families' and educators' input, ideas and values. Our Philosophy, like our program, fosters children's wellbeing, learning and development through play and recreation. We follow the National Quality Standards, Child Care Act and Regulations as well as My Time Our Place.

## **Children:**

We are strong believers in the ideology that children's development and learning is influenced by their different socio/cultural backgrounds and experiences. We are influenced by Uri Bronfenbrenner's Ecological theory. We believe in seeing the whole child and recognise the connectedness between the mind, body and spirit. We believe in providing opportunities for children's physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing aswell as their learning.

## **Community:**

St Simon Peter Outside School Hours Care is an integral part of the community that is encompassed by St Simon Peter Catholic Primary School. We believe that our service should be grounded in our local community and reflect the history, culture, language and traditions of the local community. We encourage involvement of local businesses and services in our area and believe in supporting our local community.

## **Families and Partnerships:**

We believe that parents and families are the children's primary nurturers and first and foremost teachers. We aim to work collaboratively with families and believe that the children benefit when there are strong links between home and the service. We believe relationships are the foundation for successful partnerships. We understand that successful relationships are built on trust, open communication, collaboration and respect. We provide regular opportunities to honor the family's role by encouraging them to share their family values, knowledge and experience.

## **Play**

Play and leisure activities provide opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. When children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other's thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking. (MTOP page 14.)

## **Learning and Reflective Practice:**

We believe we are all lifelong learners and use self-reflection and critical reflection as part of an ongoing cycle to ensure we are continually striving for excellence and reflecting on our practices to ensure the best interests of the children and needs of the families are being met. Staff are active learners and constantly strive to improve their practice. They work collaboratively as a team to learn from each other and share their knowledge, strengths and skills.

We believe children are confident and involved learners and children and adults should learn from each other.

## **Environment:**

Educators strive to work with children to build an environment that is welcoming, warm and fun. The environment reflects the children's interests and allows rest and relaxation. The environment provides opportunities for children to take risks and build their knowledge and skills. We believe it is our duty to provide a safe and healthy environment that gives children a strong sense of belonging and provides for their wellbeing. Children are encouraged to explore the natural environment around them. We believe our environment should create a sense of wonder and encourage children to explore and investigate.

## **Diversity:**

We recognise that all children and families are unique and have their own character, values and traditions. We believe all children and families are equal and are treated accordingly. We believe the rights and interests of the child are paramount. We believe in seeing the whole person and that mind, body and spirit are of equal importance.

We believe in encouraging and teaching each person to value diversity and respect cultural expression and promoting social justice.