

St Raphael's OOSH Centre Philosophy

St Raphael's OOSH aims to provide a safe, nurturing, stimulating and welcoming environment for school age children. Our Centre offers experiences which reflect the children's diversity, strengths, needs and interests. We support positive learning and leisure experiences, in a warm, fun and friendly atmosphere which will foster each child's sense of self-worth, nurture positive group relationships and encourage cooperative and collaborative behaviour. We understand that parents and families have busy lifestyles. We strive to create a supportive family atmosphere assisting to relieve any family pressure and providing quality care.

Our centre implements the My Time Our Place framework to ensure that school age children have the opportunity to engage in leisure and play-based activities that are a reflection of the interests and choices of the children. Our child directed program aims to provide for a variety of developmental levels. It allows for extension of learning through enjoyable, play experiences, encouraging autonomy and interdependence.

As Educators we believe in practice and advocate for the principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Early Childhood Code of Ethics, Children's Services Regulation and the My Time Our Place Framework.

The centre promotes its OPEN DOORS POLICY. We welcome and encourage all family members to come in and observe how we provide care for your child. We will always make time to listen, provide help and advice for each individual family. We are proud of the quality care we provide.

As Educators We Believe Children:

- ❖ Should have the opportunity to realise their full potential in a fun and safe environment.
- ❖ Should be challenged to be curious about what interests them while at the same time developing self-identity and social competencies.
- ❖ Be able to take part in a diverse range of interesting, creative, and physical activities.
- ❖ Be able to resource their own learning through connecting with people, place and technologies and natural and processed materials.
- ❖ Should learn to interact in relation to others with care empathy and respect.

For Families We Believe:

- ❖ Diversity should be accepted and family beliefs and customs respected.
- ❖ Families need to have confidence in the care provided by the centre.
- ❖ Families should be encouraged to contribute and engage in Centre activities and decision making.
- ❖ They can benefit from developing an awareness of the need and resources of the community.

Educators:

- ❖ Should recognise the connections between children, families, and communities and the importance of reciprocal relationships and partnerships.
- ❖ Should strive for consistent care practices.

For The Community We Believe:

- ❖ The centre should promote and support a productive and supportive partnership with local communities.
- ❖ Educators should work with children, families and the broader community to ensure successful transitions between settings and that the children feel secure and confident.
- ❖ Community resources and information should be made available to all families.

For the Environment We Believe:

- ❖ The centre should strive to incorporate sustainable practices where viable.
- ❖ We as educators should promote children's understanding about their responsibility to care for the environment on a day to day basis and for long term sustainability.
- ❖ Engage children to participate in sustainable practices.

The Program:

- ❖ Should reflect the interest of the child.
- ❖ Be offered to all children equally without discrimination or race culture, ethnicity, and disability.
- ❖ Should offer a diverse range of experiences through structured and unstructured activities and play opportunities.

The Centre:

- ❖ Should provide a safe, fun, caring and supportive environment for school age children.
- ❖ Should be welcoming and the space flexible to allow for a range of activities.
- ❖ Should provide activities which can be adapted to ensure all children feel a sense of accomplishment and achievement.
- ❖ Should respect the privacy of all families.
- ❖ Will promote and advocate for the rights and protection of all children.
- ❖ Should act and behave in a professional manner.
- ❖ Should assist children to understand routines and practices and to feel comfortable within the process of change.
- ❖ Should be responsive to all children's strengths, abilities and interests.