

# Hunters Hill Out of School Hours

## Philosophy

### **STATEMENT:**

At Hunters Hill Public School Before and After School Care (HHOOSH) we believe a positive learning environment is vital to a child's development. We are committed to ensuring that the children who attend our service receive outstanding care, a variety of educational experiences and have their wellbeing supported. This is achieved through all management and educators providing a safe, happy, stimulating, and welcoming home-like environment. Through active listening and observations of the children, we are able to provide them with opportunities to explore their interests and develop their autonomy, creativity and independence. HHOOSH believes in implementing best practice in all areas of the service and strives to achieve this through constant evaluation of our practices and our commitment to continuous improvement. Our philosophy underpins the running of our service and guides our everyday practice as we strive to meet the needs of the children, their families and the wider community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Our service sets high expectations and provides equity for all staff, families and children.

### **THE CHILD:**

We believe in being responsive and nurturing the needs of each child, where children feel safe, secure and respected in their environment. We value and respect children and believe that each child is an individual with unique and diverse needs and strengths. Through play at our centre, children will develop their strong sense of identity, develop a strong sense of wellbeing, become confident and involved learners, have effective communication as well as contribute to different environments. We encourage children to make their own choices, discover their own solutions and to develop at their own pace, in their own way thus further developing their positive self-image. All children are supported to experience a sense of belonging as this creates self-esteem which is critical in further exploring their abilities, interests and future growth. We facilitate an environment of inclusion where children support one another, work collaboratively and develop a sense of belonging within the service. We aim to reflect an inclusive approach that develops positive gender, racial, cultural, class and individual identities.

### **THE STAFF:**

We believe in our staff building strong, secure and respectful relationships with children and fostering an environment of openness and collaboration between staff and children. We have an influential role on promoting positive outcomes for each child as well as developing respectful relationships with all, allowing quality mentoring, inspiring curiosity and providing support for all children. We believe in focusing on the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of a child. We believe in facilitating the continuous improvement of our staff to ensure they are equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to be able to respond to the children's needs.

## **THE PROGRAM:**

We offer a cyclical program that is based on discussions and observations of children's interests, based on their development needs and abilities, through both structured and unstructured play and learning experiences. This is done through implementing an ongoing cycle of programming, planning and evaluation to ensure that we are responding to the children's emerging interests and abilities. Analysis of this results in the implementation of exciting and meaningful programs that support children and ensure they feel connected. Daily reflections result in modifying and expanding programs to ensure they are successful and enjoyed by the children. We provide opportunities for planned and spontaneous play by creating an environment where the children have a sense of ownership and belonging to the service.

## **THE FAMILY:**

Our service supports parents in their role by providing consistent communication and means of consultation with them to develop a mutual respect and a more meaningful program for their children. Our genuine partnership with families shares insight and perspectives with and about children. We respect the diversity of families and acknowledge their values and beliefs through a variety of activities that showcases diversity within our service. We incorporate feedback and suggestions. Discussions leading to supporting parent's goals of their children, allows the service to incorporate specific ideas into our program.

## **THE COMMUNITY:**

We believe in working closely with Hunters Hill Public School to ensure that the children develop a sense of connectedness between the service and the school. We also strive to reflect the school values in our service to strengthen their attachment to the community. Furthermore, we believe in developing links with the local and wider community to demonstrate the connection we have within our surroundings. This is accomplished through planning opportunities for children to participate in local group activities. As a service, we respect and acknowledge Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by promoting a greater understanding through the values of continuity and richness, of local knowledge shared by the community members.