

# Our Vision

We believe that our children are Australia's most precious and greatest resource  
It is a privilege and a huge responsibility being co-creators in learning with our future  
leaders

We do everything that is within our circle of influence to build reciprocal relationships  
with our children, families and community that give our children the best start in life  
We equip children with the foundation skills they will draw upon while taking their place  
as active, responsible, global citizens of sustainable society

We mentor and embed reflective practice to strengthen our professional development,  
build Educator capacity, support quality improvement and promote positive outcomes  
for our children and families

## Our Philosophy

At Bay Island Early Learning and Care, we believe in equipping children with foundation  
skills and supporting every child's right to an Early Education focused on play based  
learning.

"Children have the right to play. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the  
Child recognises the right of the child to rest and leisure and to engage in play and  
recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in  
cultural life and the arts" (UNICEF, 1989).

We believe play is what children do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in  
their own way and for their own reasons. Play physically strengthens children's bodies,  
expands their minds, strengthens meaningful relationships and co-operation with  
others and supports the development and use of language. We provide safe open-  
ended and enriched play environments, indoors and outdoors, that stimulate  
children's imaginations, extend their sense of wonder, and recognition of successes  
that excite children and nourish a budding passion for life long learning.

We believe play is owned by the child with the adult as a partner in learning providing  
opportunities that are full of potential and possibilities that enable the child to  
explore, engage, question and discover. We encourage the children to actively engage  
with their environment and to construct knowledge, meaning and understanding while  
providing opportunities for shared thinking and discussion between adult and child  
that are essential for learning, growth and development.

We believe that development and learning are interconnected, interdependent and  
inseparable. We plan play spaces and supported open learning opportunities in the  
achievement of a holistic child development approach. Our play-based curriculum  
encourages the achievement of the learning outcomes, reciprocal relationships and  
respect for others, nature and the environment. We embed language, literacy and  
numeracy in play and support children to become readers for life. We are guided by  
the Early Years Learning Framework and theoretical models including Rudolf Steiner,  
Lev Vygotsky, Maria Montessori, Urie Bronfenbrenner and the Reggio Emilia and  
Abecedarian approach to enable Educators to critically analyse, reflect and gain a  
broader perspective of their own practise. We gather and analyse evidence of  
children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, emotional, social and spiritual learning for use  
in program planning and setting individual goals.

## Our Philosophy continued....

We believe relationships are paramount. We respect the culture of children's play and believe that the diverse background and life experiences of all those in the early childhood setting are a positive resource to inform play. Thus, we strive to provide a warm and welcoming environment for the whole early learning community. We acknowledge the importance of respectful and collaborative relationships between the home and the Service and encourage active participation of families and the wider community.

We believe children are born with an affinity for nature and a sense of wonder. We cultivate these values and guide maturity into ecological literacy and sustainable patterns of living including equitable use of resources. We model environmental and sustainable behaviour, practices and attitudes towards natural resources: the value of water and water saving with the use of rainwater tanks, recycled water systems and water play used to water plants; Solar energy production and reducing power usage by turning off lights, fans and air-conditioning and hanging washing outside; reducing waste through Reduce, Reuse and Recycle systems within each room and on a Service scale including food scraps to the chickens, worm farm and compost, collection of community recycled items and the provision of rubbish sorting bins; Implementation of site permaculture principles, food forests, native gardens, and bush to beach kinder.

We embed Australia's Indigenous culture in our daily routine and curriculum. We value the knowledge and wisdom of our community Elders and model our respect for the Quandamooka nation through inclusion of an Acknowledgement of Country at events, and use of an informal Acknowledgement with the children during Morning Circle. First nation cultures are celebrated by the incorporation of flag display, traditional music, Dreamtime and Hidden History stories, art, edible and native gardens and natural resources into our programs.

We celebrate our unique Island Culture as part of the fundamental building blocks of a child's identity and an essential element in fostering a sense of who we are and where we belong. We embed local community projects, events, organisations, and environmental custodianship into our program. We create opportunities to build positive dispositions and respect for diversity as an Ecological system, supporting children gain skills, attitudes, and knowledge of the relationship between themselves, the environment and community.

We believe in creating a dynamic team of passionate Educators that mentor, support and value each other's uniqueness. We support the attainment of personal and professional development, higher education, and ethical standards within a strength-based team environment. We recognise the significance of being a major contributor to the economic and social wellbeing of our community and strive to be viewed as an employer of choice.