

Blue Mountains Occasional Care Service

Building genuinely, warm and ongoing relationships with children and their families, whilst providing quality education and care; based on The Early Years Learning framework.

Blue Mountains Occasional Care Service has offered a licensed mobile Early Childhood Service to the Blue Mountains community since 1995. As part of Mountains Outreach Community Service (MOCS) it is well placed to provide families with a quality Early Childhood program, support in their parenting, links to other community services, and resources that can strengthen family and community life. We offer a play based educational program developed by qualified Early Childhood staff - including an Early Childhood teacher, within the locations of Blaxland, Lawson, and Blackheath. At each of our locations we are active in making our philosophy and program meaningful and valuable to our sense of belonging, being and becoming for all.

We believe in developing strong ongoing relationships with children, families and the community, and we encourage collaboration and participation in a way that is relevant and comfortable. This partnership approach supports a holistic view of the child, as a capable learner, learning best through play and social engagement. We aim to give children a sense of themselves as people with rights, and with a sense of responsibility for the rights of others.

We base our philosophy of building genuine, caring and supportive relationships, on the research known as the Circle of Security, and staff actively work towards being the 'secure base and safe haven' for children which helps them feel able to go out and explore. Staff actively make themselves 'emotionally available' to children at a time of transition from home to educational setting, and we understand that positive transitions from home to school are proven to enhance successful schooling outcomes.

We base our curriculum on the Australian Early Years Learning Framework for everything we do as educators. It guides our work and inspires us to provide an enriching educational experience to every child, inclusively.

Staff embrace an ethos of reflective practice and continually strive to improve and enhance the quality of the service and its program. This is done by regular staff meetings, ongoing discussions, research and professional development.

We aim to listen to children in multiple ways and provide opportunities to make their learning visible to them and others. We aim to provide a rich learning environment that inspires and supports children to think, to wonder, to investigate and to research their understandings of the world around them. An environment that offers real interest and challenge but also provides secure feelings.

We treasure the Blue Mountains and the natural environment in which we live, and aim to foster a sense of pride in our community and a sense of importance for a sustainable future.

We respectfully acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on. We feel it is important to weave the Aboriginal Culture into our daily practice and we seek to develop relationships with key people that can help us to achieve this. We also acknowledge that we are a multicultural society, and value diversity of cultures, religions, and beliefs.