Alpine Kids Club - Philosophy

Our philosophy has been shaped by the experiences of our educators in the early childhood sector and through engagement with academic readings. Our primary belief is that children are individuals who develop at different rates, therefore require individual observations which determine the learning environments provided for them.

Our beliefs are consistent with a child-centred curriculum, in which educators consider each child’s strengths, interests and needs in the programming process. This consideration allows educators to recognise children as individuals and program accordingly. As suggested in the *Framework for School Aged Children, My Time Our Place*, we believe educators need to recognise each child’s individuality in a positive way in order to support and foster each child’s sense of identity.

Within our program we believe it is essential that experiences are commonly child-initiated or child-directed, allowing the children to take ownership over their learning. We believe that we should use our expert knowledge to collaborate with the children about their learning and development as oppose to acting on their behalf. This can be seen throughout our program as we offer opportunities for children to take on responsibilities and be involved in the decision-making process of matters that affect them. In this way the children’s sense of autonomy and sense of purpose is enhanced.

In following a child-centred curriculum, we believe it is important to consider each child within the context of their family and community in order to heighten the achievements of each child. We strive to develop mutually respectful relationships with families, in which rich collaboration occurs to support the development of each child.

Furthermore, we aim to create environments in which all children feel safe and supported, as we believe such environments allow for continual and optimal development to occur. In order to create such an environment, each child’s sense of belonging needs fostering. This is achieved through creating a welcoming environment in which children can see photos of themselves, photos of loved ones, have their voices heard and have their culture incorporated within the learning environment.

This philosophy is reflectively of our current practices. However we are an evolving professional organisation. Therefore, we strive to reflect and review our philosophy annually, in order to ensure our practices remain in line with our philosophy.