

West Ryde BASC Philosophy

At West Ryde BASC, we are committed to providing high-quality care and meaningful support for children, families, and our wider community. We strive to create a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment where every child feels a strong sense of belonging.

Underpinning everything we do is a commitment to a child safe culture, one where children's safety and wellbeing is the shared responsibility for every person in our service.

We believe that children learn and develop through play. Play is intrinsically motivated, personally directed, and freely chosen, and is essential to children's wellbeing and development. We value children's voices and actively collaborate with them in the planning of our program, ensuring their ideas, interests, and perspectives are heard, respected, and meaningfully embedded in our practices.

Our approach is guided by the *My Time, Our Place* framework, supporting children in their journey of Being, Belonging, and Becoming. We provide a purposeful and flexible environment that promotes both spontaneous and structured play experiences, supporting children's emotional, physical, social, and cognitive development. Through these experiences, children are encouraged to build independence, develop problem-solving skills, and form positive relationships.

We are committed to supporting children's overall health and wellbeing. This includes providing an enriching and nutritious menu that reflects children's preferences, dietary needs, and cultural diversity.

We promote healthy eating habits and create positive mealtime experiences that encourage social interaction, independence, and a sense of community.

We recognise the increasing role of digital technology in children's lives and are committed to ensuring its safe, balanced, and purposeful use within our service. We support children to develop digital literacy skills while promoting safe practices, critical thinking, and respectful online behaviour, ensuring technology enhances rather than replaces play and social connection.

We are committed to a rights-based approach in all aspects of our practice, guided by the principles of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. We recognise children as capable individuals with their own perspectives and rights, and we work in partnership with them to explore and understand their views. We aim to ensure all children feel safe, respected, and included within our service.

We acknowledge that educators play a vital role in fostering children's growth and development. We are committed to supporting our team through ongoing professional learning, reflective practice, and a culture of respect and collaboration. We value the contribution of each staff member and recognise their importance in the success of our service. We also acknowledge the essential role of our volunteer Parent Management Committee and appreciate their ongoing support and involvement.

We believe in building strong, respectful partnerships with families and the community. We encourage active participation and open communication, ensuring that families and stakeholders are informed, heard, and involved in decision-making processes. Through ongoing reflection and evaluation, we continuously strive to improve our practices and strengthen our relationships.

West Ryde BASC respects and celebrates the diversity of our community. We acknowledge the Wallumedgal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, learn, and play, and we pay respect to the Elders past and present. We are committed to inclusive practices that honour all cultures, backgrounds, beliefs, abilities, and identities. Including a deep respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, culture and peoples. We promote equity, respect, and a sense of belonging for all children, families, and staff.