



TurtleTot Philosophy

At TurtleTot Childcare we trust that by providing children with a curriculum based on their individual needs, interests and development, children will be empowered to become strong self-directing individuals, able to successfully handle themselves in society. We believe that early childhood education plays an important role in preparing children to become capable and confident decision makers in their community. A variety of theorists shape our beliefs, practices and approaches and enable us to incorporate new ideas into children's life and learning in a meaningful way.

At TurtleTot we draw inspiration from theorists such as Piaget and Bowlby who believe that program planning should focus on the individual development of children. We believe that every person in our room is unique and should be viewed, respected and treated as such. As educators we strive to provide holistic support of every child's individual requirements and interests in a loving, nurturing and welcoming environment that fosters personal development across all developmental domains.

Children

We believe that all children have the right to feel safe, nurtured, valued and heard. We follow the Child Safe Standards and believe that the Conventions on the Right of a child plays an important role in ensuring that every child has equal opportunities in making their own decisions and choices. We believe that children should be allowed to be children. Through play, children are afforded ample opportunity to learn as they imagine, invent, improvise and discover. We believe that children should be offered the opportunity to explore experiences at their own pace, build self-confidence and become comfortable in their actions, without the fear of being wrong.

Family

We recognise that parents are children's first educators and forming partnerships with them is key to achieve success in a child's learning journey. Underpinned by Bronfenbrenner's ecological system theory, we strive to form collaborative relationships with families and develop an understanding of their unique backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. We believe that through open and honest communication we ensure continuation of learning and support children's sense of belonging. Partnerships are formed when families attend events, contribute to the program and inform future decisions.

Educators

Our educators are our most precious and valuable resource as their individual strengths and personal qualities contribute to every aspect of children's development and learning. We believe that our educators' mental health and wellbeing is key to implementing a high quality educational program and supporting children. We acknowledge the importance of working as a team and encourage educators' involvement in decision making.

Environment

We believe that the environment is the third teacher and should provide diverse learning opportunities for children. We believe that open spaces and the natural environment encourages children to learn about and respect nature. We maintain that a safe, fun and stimulating environment is highly conducive to all aspects of learning in early childhood. We promote risky play where children have the opportunity to alter

and set up experiences that challenge them. We are passionate about teaching children about sustainability and environmental awareness as we take an active role in caring for our environment and teaching children about respect for their planet.

Community

Involvement with the local community through both excursions and incursions promotes a sense of belonging within the community. We recognise and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Australia and value their unique and diverse culture.

Curriculum

Maria Montessori supports the belief that children need to play freely, without constant adult input, intervention or involvement. She argues in favour of a play-based approach to learning, something in which Turtletot Childcare wholeheartedly believe. Our conviction that children are wildly capable and competent is underpinned by The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF) which strongly emphasises the importance of play in the early years. We incorporate STE(A)M based learning into our curriculum planning, acknowledging that our children are growing up in a technology-forward world.

Our role as early childhood educators is arguably to initiate, guide, encourage, respond and observe children throughout the implementation of learning experiences while promoting:

- Socio-emotional development;
- Fine and gross motor development;
- Self-confidence and independence;
- Language, communication and expressive language skills;
- Social skills;
- Literacy, numeracy and scientific thinking; and
- Emergent writing and phonemic awareness to position our children for success in school.

We strive to promote children's resilience and empower them to cope with everyday life. Our curriculum is developed in collaboration with children and aims to provide them with a sense of achievement and success.

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