

Our Philosophy

Our Vision

That each child feels valued as unique, competent and capable and receives a positive and memorable early learning experience.

We pay our respects to the Yugerra speaking nations and acknowledge their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Uniting Early Learning core values and beliefs underpin everything we do at The Gap.

Diversity

At Uniting Early Learning (UEL) The Gap we believe that every person is an individual with a unique way of being in the world. We acknowledge that people are shaped by the community that they have come from and that experiences such as religion, culture are all a central part of a person's identity. We believe that we should recognise and celebrate diversity in all its forms, challenge biases and actively engage in making sure we are implementing an anti-bias curriculum. We believe that we should feel comfortable in embedding multiple perspectives in our programme and find creative ways to work together.

Play

We believe very strongly in the intrinsic value of play, that when children are allowed to play they can explore concepts, ideas and materials in a way that is fun, engaging and personally motivating. That when children play they are able to experience a sense of security and at the same time are able to challenge themselves in a way that meets their individual's needs. That educators help strengthen play by being co-constructors, guides and facilitators of children's play; and most importantly through play children experience a sense of security, wonder and belonging.

We believe that through play we can help build positive learning dispositions with children and promote a sense of curiosity. Through the element of play children can be given multiple opportunities to develop their literacy and numeracy understandings.

Community

We are very proud to be part of our local community and recognise that it has a unique identity. We actively explore ways to make deep and meaningful connections with individuals, groups and places. We believe that our service should be a reflection of a community where people feel welcome and we encourage positive community values such as looking for ways to make sure people feel safe, included and respected. We are committed to finding ways that community members can be involved in our decision making processes.

Nurture

At UEL The Gap, we believe in creating a warm home like environment, where children develop relationships with caring, professional educators who are emotionally responsive to each child as an individual. We value our opportunity to combine children of different ages as we believe this gives the centre a family like feel and allows children to develop their own sense of nurturing each other. We believe that all children should feel valued and nurtured by every member of our team.

We make use of everyday interactions to create meaningful communication moments between adults and children.

Explore

We encourage children to be explorers, to find challenges and to take risks. We believe that each child has the right to a fun-filled childhood where they can investigate their environment, play in mud, climb trees and engage in all types of play.

We believe that through exploration and risk-taking children learn persistence, emotional resilience and a sense of confidence as they develop their knowledge about the world around them.

We believe in continuous improvement, to grow and challenge ideas for both children and Educators alike. We encourage Educators to be innovative in their practice and support ongoing development.

Our Philosophy

Environment

We are proud to be able to provide children with a natural play space where children can engage in a range of experiences and form strong personal connections to the natural world. Our service looks for ways that we can build sustainable practices as part of our everyday routines. We are also strongly committed to making sure that our inside environments are reflective of the values we hold for our outdoor space.

We believe that we should be continuously looking for ways that we can encourage sustainability and exemplify behaviour for future generations. We believe that forming a strong connection to the natural world will help develop a sense of environmental awareness in our children.

Advocacy

We are committed to acting as advocates for children, their families and for early year's education. We believe that children should be part of a community where they feel safe, included and empowered. We want to support children to find their voices and to see how they can have an impact on the world around them. We want to create a space where children can be their authentic selves and learn about their way of being in the world. A place where children know that we have their best interests at heart and that we are here for them.

Growth

As a centre we committed to being innovative, to creating a culture where people feel valued and supported to question, challenge and grow. We honour the fact that each individual comes to us with unique gifts, interests and experiences and believe that we can all learn from one another. We wish to create a centre with a diverse range of people where we can grow in strength both as individuals and together. We believe that having a sense of curiosity and wonder is one of the foundations of who we are and strive to be meaningful in our practice.