



# PORT AUGUSTA WEST CHILDHOOD SERVICES CENTRE

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Port Augusta West Childhood Services Centre, we strive to provide a high-quality preschool program with a variety of intentional play-based learning opportunities and experiences, where children choose and engage in extended periods of uninterrupted play. We believe our environments actively engage and support children's creativity, imagination, curiosity, language, and social skills. It provides vast teaching, relationship building and learning opportunities, where children are encouraged to further explore with their imagination and create within the indoor and outdoor spaces. We believe our preschool is supportive of all children to access and take risks which allows them to build resilience as they explore the environments.

We believe our children need and benefit from having time to explore in nature. This supports the children's learning by engaging in spontaneous play which then develops the child as a 'whole'. Learning becomes more meaningful and effective when children are given opportunities to explore their world in their own time and when their strengths, capabilities and skills are acknowledged and valued by responsive educators.

We believe in a holistic approach which provides opportunities for children to care for the environment. We believe that it is important for the children to be involved in caring for our environment so that they can learn to appreciate and feel a sense of belonging to what we strongly value at our preschool.

We believe children learn about their world by touching, smelling, seeing, hearing, and experiencing. Sensory play contributes to a child's development in multiple ways. Enabling children to engage with their senses, both indoor and outdoor, with natural and processed resources allows the children to understand the world in which they live to become lifelong learners.

We believe children flourish when working in partnership with families and the community. We welcome families from diverse backgrounds valuing their beliefs, identities, and cultures. We are culturally responsive, respect multiple cultural ways of knowing, doing and being and celebrate the benefits of diversity.

We believe that Early Childhood is a celebration of learning. Our learning environment supports the development of children who can make choices, think independently, take challenges, explore ideas, ask questions, feel nurtured, safe, and well cared for within a social play-based context.

Developed in March 2022, reviewed June 2023, May 2024, September 2025.