**NNOOSH Philosophy**

The children, families, and staff of NNOOSH acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

We recognise, respect and value diversity in all its forms which includes racial, neurological, cultural, family type, gender, and sexuality. Community engagement and inclusion are at the forefront of all that we do.

NNOOSH aims to provide a ‘home-like’ atmosphere in which all children and families feel a sense of belonging and caring within a circle of trusting relationships. A home reflects a range of values whilst providing flexibility to meet individual needs. This is a core belief at NNOOSH.

We focus on the whole family as a partnership, in which children are encouraged to have agency in their own decision-making and learn to communicate with others in a respectful way. We strive to provide learning and nurturing for children and their families that will lead children to be confident and capable as they grow and develop.

Good communication is paramount and extends to those within the school who are also involved in the children’s’ lives.

We believe that play-based learning is intrinsically valuable and essential to children’s growth and development on a social, emotional, and physical level. Play allows for the nurturing of a positive self-identity, self-expression, and well-being. Not only does play help the individual to develop fine and gross motor skills, but it also helps children to understand their potential, to experience relationships with others, to learn about enjoyment, adventure, sadness, and happiness and about life itself.

The development of social and emotional skills is central to what we believe. We encourage autonomy and independence.

We recognise, respect and value all families’ diversity by implementing a program which reflects our community cultures. Children are provided with a range of experiences to suit all ages and interests and are free to choose their activities within a stimulating environment.

Our behaviour guidance and program development are guided by evidence-based research that supports well-being outcomes. Programming is supported by reflective practice and discussion with the children and our Educators are encouraged to observe and extend the children’s’ interests and to support the children as they grow. We listen to the children, respect their rights, and include their perspectives.

Our educators are leaders in our community and aim to make a positive difference. Our staff are our most valued asset.

We encourage our children to understand their community and celebrate diversity, respect their environment, and extend that knowledge to the wider world. We aim to provide a caring, safe but challenging and supportive environment where everyone feels welcomed and valued.