



**HUNTER
SPORTS
CENTRE**

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Hunter Sports Centre Vacation Care (Quality Area 7)

Reviewed and updated – February 2024

02 4953 6366 | info@hsc.org.au

45 STOCKLAND DR GLENDALE NSW 2285 | BOX 42 BOOLAROO NSW 2284

PURPOSE:

A statement of philosophy guides all aspects of the service's operations. A written statement of philosophy outlines the purpose and principles under which the service operates. It should also reflect the guiding principles of the National Quality Framework (section 3(3) of the National Law), and the Approved Learning Frameworks (Element 1.1.1).

HUNTER SPORTS CENTRE PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The Hunter Sports Centre's Vacation Care service is committed to ensuring a safe, secure, and enjoyable experience for school-aged children throughout school holiday periods. We are committed to being culturally responsive and celebrate the benefits of our diverse community. We value ourselves on being inclusive and support the wellbeing and positive outcomes for children in all their diversities.

We are guided by the Framework for School Aged Care (My Time, Our Place) in developing our program and practices. This ensures that our programs are of the highest quality and have a specific emphasis on play and leisure opportunities that are meaningful and support children's wellbeing, learning and development. We aim to provide opportunities for children to develop lifelong skills, engage in quality experiences and have fun through a variety of creative, physical and explorative programs.

We strive to create a sense of belonging for all participants and encourage them to explore new interests and talents in a safe and encouraging environment.

At the Hunter Sports Centre, we believe that every child deserves the chance to have a memorable and fulfilling holiday experience, and we are dedicated to making that a reality for each and every participant.

We achieve this by:

- Providing a program that incorporates physical and creative activities in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Utilising our Gymnastics Hall and Athletics facilities, Children will gain physical literature and team building skills in a fun and safe environment. Children will be encouraged express their creative talents, problem solving skills and imagination through our varying programs.
- Encouraging children and families to be actively involved in the planning and implementation and evaluation of the service.
- Providing reliable, cost effective Vacation care, accessible to all families within the Lake Macquarie area by maintaining the highest quality standards of service in a happy and stimulating environment.
- Child directed play, as well as structured activities, provide opportunities for children to explore, experiment, connect with and contribute to their world.
- Recognising the significance of children being in the here and now and engaging in meaningful opportunities.
- Recognise the significance of family culture and community on children's sense of belonging.
- Understanding the developmental differences of children aged 5- 12 years as well as their similarities. Children are shaped by many experiences and are very capable at supporting one another and building on each other's skills and knowledge bases. Their willingness to become active members of society is supported in our routines and everyday experiences and aims to develop a strong sense of identity and wellbeing.
- Ensuring Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are acknowledged, respected and valued. We make a genuine commitment to embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into our programs.
- Supporting children to become environmentally responsible. This is embedded in practice, program and policies.
- Through ongoing critical reflection, we are able to continuously improve, maintain best practice and achieve quality outcomes.

Our Goals:

We apply the two nationally approved learning frameworks which outline practices that support and promote children's learning:

My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

The Hunter Sports Centre is guided by the Principles and Practices as set out in the MTOP framework.

Our educational program will contribute to the following outcomes:

- children have a strong sense of identity
- children are connected with and contribute to their world
- children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- children are confident and involved learners
- children are effective communicators

- Provide a friendly, caring and safe environment that provides high quality care for children.
- Provide a welcoming environment for staff, parents and children and develop collaborative relationships.
- Encourage health and wellbeing by providing nutritious snacks, modelling healthy eating habits and providing physically active play experiences.
- Acknowledging that children are capable, resourceful and active contributors in their learning.
- Recognising the uniqueness of each child and encouraging their sense of identity and wellbeing.
- Promoting play and leisure as intrinsically interwoven in physical, social, emotional personal, spiritual creative, cognitive and linguistic aspects of learning.
- Developing positive relationships with local agencies

PRINCIPLES

Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships

Partnerships

Respect for diversity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives

Equity, inclusion and high expectations

Sustainability

Critical reflection and ongoing professional learning

Collaborative leadership and teamwork

PRACTICES

Holistic, integrated and interconnected approaches

Collaboration with children and young people

Play, leisure and intentionality

Environments

Cultural responsiveness

Continuity and transitions

Assessment and evaluation for wellbeing, learning and development

Objectives

Hunter Sports Centre believes that the social, emotional and educational wellbeing of a child can be best supported through flexible routines, that adapt to the interests and needs of the child. Our Educators are committed to creating an inclusive, stimulating and safe environment that enhances the children's learning. These indoor and outdoor environments are designed to engage the children in meaningful play, in a time frame that allows the children to immerse themselves in the activity and achieve the most from the experience in a safe, caring, friendly and fun environment.

Staff will work together as a team, participate in appropriate training and learn new skills to achieve the following objectives;

1. Safety

The staff will implement

- The Occupational Health and Safety Policies of Hunter Sports Centre
- All Childcare Services Standards including
 - a. Health and Hygiene practices
 - b. Supervision of children
 - c. Administering medication
 - d. Maintaining adequate staff to child ratios
 - e. Cleanliness and maintenance
 - f. All emergency evacuation procedures
 - g. Any other legislative requirements relating to safety for children

2. Caring

- Staff will exhibit high professional standards to provide an example to children.
- Staff will treat all children with dignity and respect and encourage all children to show mutual respect for each other.
- Children are encouraged to maximize their cognitive, emotional, social and physical development by exploring and learning
- Staff will encourage behaviour which promotes positive self esteem and resilience amongst all the children. While self expression is important children are also encouraged to respect the personal space and property of all those participating in the programme.
- The programme will offer equal opportunity for all children to be included and to develop additional skills with new experiences and stimulating activities.

3. Friendly

- The staff will facilitate positive and respectful interactions and effective communication between staff and staff, children and children, staff and children, and staff and families.
- The staff will relate to parents and children in a warm and friendly manner.
- The staff will promote the professional standing of the service in the school and wider community. This will be done by facilitating good communication between the service, parents and the community.

4. Fun

- The staff will encourage a relaxed and happy atmosphere enabling children's spontaneity and creativity.
- There will be many choices of activities available for children.
- Children's ideas will be encouraged and implemented wherever possible.

The philosophy statement will be reviewed annually

Reviewed January 2025