

# Aquarena childcare philosophy

## **Our childcare service provides:**

- Short-term childcare primarily for parents who remain in the centre to use the facilities at Aquarena whilst their children are being cared for.
- Multi-age/family grouping for children aged from six weeks to six years.
- A small number of places for primary aged children under 10
- Places for occasional care if childcare has not been fully booked

## **We believe that:**

- all children learn and develop through play and have the right to play in a safe and secure environment.
- although we offer only short-term care, the environment we provide for children needs to be rich and creative, inclusive and culturally-diverse, reflective of our community.
- all children are valued, respected and offered opportunities to grow in body, mind and spirit.

## **We seek to provide an environment where:**

- Children can play freely within safe limits
- Children have opportunities to try new experiences, as well as familiar ones indoors and outdoors.
- Children are valued and cared for as individuals, with individual abilities and needs. We aim to create a pleasant and fun environment with warm and friendly interactions, open communication and positive guidance between staff and children
- Children, staff and parents work together in partnership. We welcome and encourage involvement and feedback from parents/guardians and will respect and be responsive to differences in values and expectations of families.
- Each staff member is a valuable resource to our centre. Staff participate in annual qualification updates and are provided with opportunities to access further training and professional development.
- We are committed to confidentiality and professionalism at all times and to facilitate the needs and interests of children and families using the centre.
- We aim to provide an educational program that is based upon the strengths, interests and needs of all children.
- Ongoing evaluation of our policies and program through a process of critical reflection and feedback from children and families.

