



**The staff at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre would love for you to come and visit our centre.**

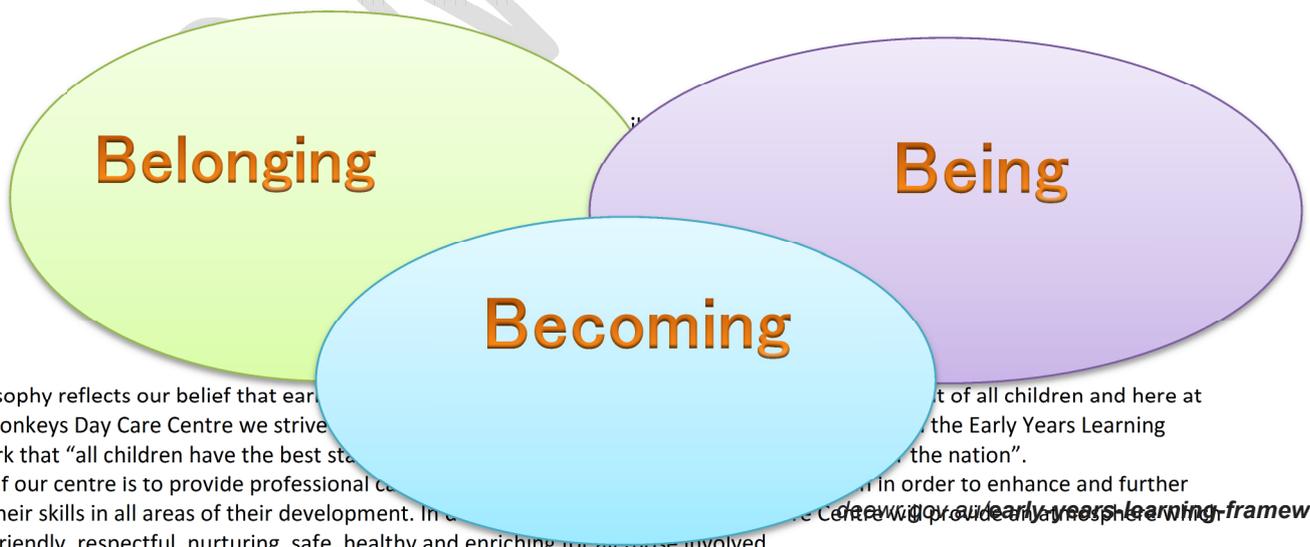
At Cheeky Monkeys Day care Centre we focus on the whole child to build their development and learning through planned and spontaneous experiences. Every child in our care will be surrounded by love and laughter and high quality individualised and group experiences. Our developmentally appropriate education is fun and exciting within a safe and secure environment. Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre is an innovatively designed environment with play spaces that provide a warm, nurturing and stimulating environment.

Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre is a private and family owned centre which caters for 28 children per day. Daily we have twenty eight children aged 0-6years. Our operating hours are 7:30am till 5:30pm, Monday to Friday and we are open for 50 weeks in the year (closing for Christmas and New Year), we are also closed on public holidays. As our philosophy states our aim is to provide the highest quality childcare, education and stimulating experiences for all children. A team of qualified and experienced childcare workers are employed at the centre, which aim to fulfill your expectations of a high quality childcare centre for you and your child.

Our centre has three rooms- the 0-2's room, the 2-3's room and the 3-5's room. We have a separate eating area and our outdoor playground has fixed equipment as well as a soft fall ground.

The learning journey at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre combines 3 key principles.

These are based on the Early Years Learning Framework.



Our philosophy reflects our belief that early learning is the best start for all children and here at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre we strive to provide the best start for all children. We are committed to the Early Years Learning Framework that "all children have the best start for life and the nation". The Aim of our centre is to provide professional care and education in order to enhance and further develop their skills in all areas of their development. In order to provide the best start for all children, we will provide early years learning framework that is warm, friendly, respectful, nurturing, safe, healthy and enriching for all those involved.

First and foremost we here at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre believe that:

**PLAY PAVES THE WAY FOR LEARNING**

Play is so important to optimal development that it has been recognized by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights as a right of every child. The children here at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre are active learners. They construct their own understanding

and knowledge of the world. Play is an essential aspect of learning for young children and planning for play is the central component in developing a curriculum that integrates all areas of a child's development.

We, as teachers have a critical role in responding to children's play ideas and in establishing an environment which supports and extends children's learning and every aspect of development through play. 'Play is the children's window to the world'. It forms the foundations for intellectual, social, physical and emotional skills necessary for success in school and in life and it is a context for learning through which children organize and make sense of their social worlds, as they engage actively with people, objects and representations (EYLF).

#### KNOWN BENEFITS OF PLAY

- Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, physical, cognitive and emotional strength.
- Play is important to healthy brain development.
- Play allows children to create and explore a world they can master, conquering their fears while practicing adult roles, sometimes in conjunction with other children or adult caregivers.
- Undirected play allows children to learn how to work in groups, to share, to negotiate, to resolve conflicts and to learn self advocacy skills.
- When play is allowed to be children driven, children practice decision making skills, move at their own pace, discover their own areas of interest and ultimately engage fully in the passions they wish to pursue.
- Less verbal children may be able to express their views, experiences and even frustrations through play. (Paediatricians, Volume 119, Number 1. January, 2007 from 'The importance of play in promoting healthy child development and maintaining a strong parent bond').

#### PAEDIATRICIANS, TEACHERS AND ALL ADULTS SHOULD:

- Emphasize that active, child- centred play is a time tested way of producing healthy, fit, young bodies.
- Emphasize the benefits of "true toys" such as blocks, dolls, construction art & craft etc. With these experiences children use their imagination fully, over passive toys that require limited imagination.
- Promote free play as a healthy, essential part of childhood. They should recommend that all children are provided with ample, unscheduled, independent time to be creative, to reflect and decompress.

If children are not given the opportunities to play freely and further develop life long skills they learn to adhere to adult rules and concerns and lose some of the benefits that play offers them- particularly in developing creativity, leadership and group skills. One of the most crucial outcomes of not allowing children the opportunity to play freely is that they can become stressed, anxious, adapt into adult roles very quickly in life, lose self esteem and it can decrease a child's social competence. With all this said, we here at Cheeky Monkeys are very big believers that children learn through play. If you sit and watch your children play for at least ten minutes you will be amazed at the things they say, do and how they problem solve for better play solutions. Please do not forget that children learn through experiences and engaging in activities that they are naturally drawn to. When you ask your children what they did at Cheeky Monkeys and they say 'we played'- please keep in mind that children do not play in order to learn, although they are learning while they are playing. Furthermore, we would just like to add that aside from all this playing, the children do participate in structured group times or intentional teaching, which are a planned way of further developing children's skills and the preschool children engage in school readiness activities through a school readiness program.

#### EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

The Early Years Learning Framework- BELONGING, BEING, BECOMING is the current curriculum that we follow at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre. This is Australia's first national framework for early childhood educators. The aim of this document is to extend children's learning from birth to five years and through the transition to school. The Council of Australian Governments has developed this framework to assist educators to provide young children with opportunities to maximize their potential and develop a foundation for future success in learning.. in this way, the Early Years Learning Framework will contribute to realizing the Council of Australian Governments' vision that "all children have the best start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation". The five learning outcomes are:

1. Children have strong sense of identity.
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.
4. Children are confident and involved learners.
5. Children are effective communicators. (EYLF)

The framework supports goal 2 of the Melbourne Declaration of Education for Young Australians that all young Australians become:

- Successful learners.
- Confident and creative individuals.
- Active and informed citizens. (EYLF)

The Melbourne declaration also commits to improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and strengthening early childhood education.. the council of Australian Government is committed to closing the gap in educational achievements between indigenous Australians and non indigenous Australians within a decade. Early childhood education has a critical role to play in delivering this outcome.

Through the Early Years Learning Framework, childrens' learning is dynamic, complex, holistic, physical, social, emotional, personal, spiritual, creative, cognitive, linguistic and aspects of learning are all intricately interwoven and interrelated. Play is a context for learning that:

- Allows for the expression of personality and uniqueness.
- Enhances dispositions such as curiosity and creativity.
- Enables children to make connections between prior experiences and new learning.
- Assist children to develop relationships and concepts.
- Stimulates a sense of well being. (EYLF).

#### IN REGARD TO CHILDREN

We will view children as active participants and decision makers in order to open up possibilities for educators to move beyond preconceived expectations about what children can do and learn. Educators will respect and work with each child's unique qualities and abilities.

- We believe in treating all children equally regardless of ability, gender, race, religion, values or beliefs. They are ALL unique individuals.
- We believe that each and every child has a right of speech and opinion.
- We believe that a child's first language is very important to their identity and our aim is to value and maintain this first language as well as Australia's language- English.
- We believe that all children have a cultural identity which must be valued and looked upon as beneficial in maintaining this through their childhood experiences.

With these points in mind we here at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre provide experiences that foster and reflect on the diversity of children and encourage children to express themselves verbally, creatively and through play. We encourage the use of first languages by asking that families write a list of useful words that we can use with their child/ren and we also employ staff that are bi-lingual. Furthermore, we encourage the learning of different cultures and traditions through play.

#### IN REGARD TO FAMILIES

- We believe in fostering positive and consistent communication between parents/ caregiver and staff in order to tend to each families wants and needs when it comes to the care and education of the children.
- We believe that family involvement and support is essential for the running of a high quality service. Children thrive when families and educators work together in partnership to support young children's learning. (EYLF)
- We believe that parents/ caregiver's are the most important influences in the child's life and all your opinions and suggestions are valued highly and taken into consideration.
- We believe in creating an environment where parents/ caregiver's are respected and welcomed into the centre just as much as the children are. We, together need to work as a team in the best interest of the children.

We value the role of the family when it comes to the centres program ,policy and philosophy reviewing. Families are encouraged to ask questions and raise issues about the centres philosophy and the overall running of the centre.

In saying this, we here at Cheeky Monkeys have an open communication with the families that pass through our centre. We communicate using our Communication pockets, our 'What We Did Today books', our daily communication books, monthly newsletters and our meal and sleep charts. We will constantly be asking families for suggestions and conducting surveys asking how we are performing and how we can change in order to better the centre. Families will always be invited to attend excursions, incursions and all other events arranged by the centre.

#### IN REGARD TO STAFF

- We believe that all staff should be encouraged to continue professional development and training in order to keep up to date with current trends in the childcare field.
- We believe that all staff should take a team-work approach in all aspects of their working environment in order to increase the benefits of shared knowledge and skills in the workplace.
- We believe that staff should ALWAYS show respect for one another.
- We believe that all staff should have the necessary qualifications needed in order to carry out their job in a satisfactory and professional manner.
- Staff here at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre will always maintain confidentiality.

Staff at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre respect all people involved within the centre and make everyone feel welcome. The staff are qualified and have experience working with children and will constantly be attending inservices to further their knowledge about the childcare industry and its practices. The staff are warm, caring and approachable are will be constantly problem solving the best possible ways in which to further develop children's knowledge and abilities through play and educational experiences.

#### IN REGARD TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY

- We believe that in helping the wider community we are also further developing the community awareness and acceptance of the children.
  - We believe that the wider community has a lot to offer the children when it comes to learning and educational experiences.
  - We believe that the children are constantly interacting within their wider community and with this said we aim to involve Cheeky Monkeys with wider community in order to encourage and further the children's involvement within the wider community when they depart from Cheeky Monkeys and also so they are involved and respect their wider community in later life.
- At Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre we strive to help the wider community as much as possible. We will be involved in charity fundraisers such as Red Nose Day, Starlight Day etc and organizing people from the wider community to visit and further develop the children's awareness and acceptance of diversity such as Aboriginal Storytellers, Mums Day, Dads Day, Grandparents Day, Multicultural Day etc.. We also organize experiences for children to interact with people in their wider community such as visits to the library, the corner store and the post office.

#### IN REGARD TO THE ENVIRONMENT

- We believe that the learning environment needs to be safe, fun and stimulating.
  - We believe that the environment should reflect multiculturalism and diversity.
  - We believe that the Cheeky Monkeys Environment should be a canvas of children's work and play experiences in order for children to feel proud and build up their self esteem and confidence about themselves.
  - We believe that the learning environment should have a balance of natural beauty that the children can interact and learn with.
- At Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre the children are occupied within creating their own learning and problem solving ways in which their world comes together. This is promoted by the way the environment allows children to select what experience they would like to engage in and with what tools they use to further their knowledge. If children seem to be interested in certain topics or specific things that happen in and around the centre the staff extend on this and create child centred learning centres where the children can further their knowledge of certain topics by brainstorming, problem solving, discussing and creating experiences that relate.

**Furthermore we would like to add that at Cheeky Monkeys Day Care Centre we have an "Open Door Policy"**

**Which means that we will always make time for our families and surrounding community, so please feel free to approach us with any questions or comments etc...**

**If you would like this information in a different language please feel free to ask a staff member.**

