Service Philosophy, Aims & Objectives

Shorncliffe Outside School Hours Care aims to meet each child’s unique developmental needs by providing a program which adheres to children’s individual physical, social, cognitive and emotional development during middle childhood, whilst ensuring children’s skills, abilities and interests are valued. This will occur in a safe and happy environment which is inclusive of all children and one which values social and cultural diversity by providing a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Shorncliffe Outside School Hours Care recognises and values the importance of play through a balance of structured and unstructured play opportunities and real life experiences. These support the development and refinement of a range of skills associated with middle childhood, encouraging and supporting curiosity, exploration, inventiveness, imagination, creativity and problem solving. We recognise freedom of choice in experiences, balanced with age-appropriate programming. Children’s ideas and contributions to the program are also valued and used in a collaborative approach to planning the program.

Shorncliffe Outside School Hours Care values and respects the views of all children, parents, staff and relevant community members. Staff are respectful of the cultural backgrounds of all children and families and are actively responsive to any concerns or issues raised by children and/or families. The service encourages and welcomes open discussions and recognises and respects parents as primarily responsible for the upbringing, protection and development of their children. The Service aims to support parents in that role, to the greatest extent reasonably possible.

The staff and Management Committee of Shorncliffe Outside School Hours Care actively support collaboration with the local community and participate in local community events to strengthen their relationships between children, families and the local community.
The values and objectives which underpin Shorncliffe Outside School Hours Care’s provision of a quality service are:

- Children’s physical, cognitive, emotional and social needs are met in a safe, caring and supportive environment
- The best interests of the child are the paramount concern;
- The Service provides care in a way that –
  * protects the child from harm
  * respects the child's dignity and privacy
  * promotes the child's wellbeing
  * provides positive experiences to the child;
- The service is guided by the ‘My Time, Our Place’, Framework for School Aged Care in Australia, in conjunction with the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, ‘Belonging, Being and Becoming’.

This Philosophy Statement provides the foundation for all activities, policies and procedures of the Service. The written policies and procedures of the Service have been developed, and will be monitored and reviewed annually with these values in mind.