

Lapstone OOSH Service Philosophy

Lapstone OOSH, also known as LOOSH, is a parent-run, not for profit before and after school care service that was established in 1996 with the endorsement of the RAAF community and broader Lapstone community. We are open for before school care between the hours of 6:45am to 8:30 am and for after school between the hours of 2:55pm to 6:30pm. We offer a Vacation care service during the school holidays to the Lapstone community, as well as all surrounding suburbs.

We respectfully acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on. We believe it is important to weave the Indigenous culture into our daily practices through holistic and respectful approaches and we seek to develop relationships with key people that can help us to achieve this. We recognise that we are a multicultural society, and value diversity of cultures, religions, and beliefs.

At Loosh we recognise that children learn socially and that one of the most positive forms of achieving social learning is through peer engagement amongst all age groups. Our open design learning environment caters for this, and promotes flexibility, allowing for plentiful grouping times between all ages.

Our environment is designed for optimal engagement and inspires learning amongst all age groups and caters for the individual inclusiveness of all children. Through flexibility and access, children are able to develop upon their autonomy and feel a deeper sense of belonging to their environment. At Loosh we recognise how important environments are for learning, building engagement and developing independence.

We strongly believe in the importance of professional development amongst our team of educators and recognise that this is achieved through a supportive and encouraging management system. We place a high degree of importance on internal training and knowledge sharing, and this is complemented by providing access to external training services for ongoing learning for our team. Educators are encouraged and supported to extend upon their maturing knowledge, whilst understanding the importance of the personal responsibility that comes with individual learning.

Our educators understand the importance of reflective practice and conclude that education is ever evolving and as such, requires thoughtful pedagogical approaches at all times. We recognise the importance that comes with reflecting upon current theology, and endeavour to implement such knowledge through embedded practice, engaging learning environments, positive interactions amongst children, families and peers, and an enriching educational program.

At Loosh our program is holistic and dynamic, it is constantly evolving as educators respond to children's interests, knowledge, culture and through intentional teaching and spontaneous learning, whilst recognising child led and intrinsically motivated play as it occurs. We encourage and support group-based learning and play and feel passionately about allowing children to explore the program through enriching and hands-on experiences, with acknowledgement of the My time our place framework, which assists in guiding our teaching pedagogy.

We conceive that children are competent, capable learners with the confidence to take leadership in their learning through following their self-motivated interests and ideas. Our educators are responsive to children's learning as it occurs and recognise the importance of scaffolding children's thoughts and knowledge as they continue to build upon their agency and independent thinking, with their educator to guide them.

We understand that every child has rights, and each child should be supported to understand their rights as they grow and learn. We recognise that children have the right to express their thoughts and ideas and for those ideas to be respected and taken seriously. Through this, we believe we can assist in bringing forth a culture of thoughtful, independent young people for our future.

We firmly believe that our families, like the children, should feel a sense of belonging to our service, and through this, always feel welcomed. Our team of educators are always enthusiastic to listen and collaborate with families regarding the best interest of each child, to build a sense of unity amongst our community at Loosh. We believe in shared learning amongst families and educators; families are a child's first teacher and educators are here to support them through listening, guiding and sharing their professional knowledge.

At Loosh we are passionate about our beautiful outdoor environment and feel strongly about embedding sustainable practices into our program and everyday routines. We believe in supporting children to understand the impact we have on our planet and strive to make small changes as often as we can to create a more sustainable future.