

MAWSON LAKES SCHOOL OSHC CENTRE PHILOSOPHY

We acknowledge that this country always has and always will be the Kurna people's home. We thank and show respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as we now live and learn on this beautiful land. We acknowledge that we must learn from the past and look to the future, walking together on this country.

We celebrate and embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within the school, recognising them as the Traditional Owners of Australia, and valuing the voices of our students, staff, families, and wider community.

Mawson Lakes School OSHC aims to provide high-quality care for children in a welcoming environment. We believe children are curious, free thinkers who develop confidence and independence through interaction with others. Drawing on the work of Lev Vygotsky, we recognise that learning is social and occurs through collaboration, conversation, and guided support within each child's Zone of Proximal Development. The Zone of Proximal Development is the range of tasks a learner can perform with guidance from a "More Knowledgeable Other" (MKO) but not yet alone. Through thoughtful planning, programming, spontaneous experiences, and daily reflection, educators scaffold children's learning, encouraging them to explore, investigate, and develop life-long skills.

Our service has a strong partnership with Mawson Lakes School and the local community to establish a diverse and well-supported service, providing Before School Care, After School Care, Pupil Free Days, and Vacation Care. The children we care for are culturally and socially diverse, creating rich opportunities for reciprocal learning between children, educators, and families. Parents and community members are invited to share their experiences, strengthening children's understanding of culture, collaboration, and community.

We, as educators, believe that the safety, rights, and best interests of children are the paramount consideration in the operation of our service. We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where children feel respected, valued, and protected. By placing their wellbeing at the center of all that we do, we ensure that children can explore, learn, and grow with confidence, knowing that their rights and needs are always our primary focus.

Our educators bring a wide range of skills and professional expertise, creating safe, challenging, and rewarding experiences. Children are encouraged to have a voice and contribute to program planning, reflecting Vygotsky's emphasis on co-constructed learning. We support social interaction, communication, and problem-solving, promoting leadership, responsibility, empathy, and self-regulation.

Through strong partnerships with families and ongoing professional reflection, we ensure that children's learning is scaffolded, meaningful, and responsive to their individual and collective needs. By embedding Vygotskian principles into our practice, we make a positive and lasting difference in each child's life, both now and in the future.

Philosophy reviewed in April of 2026
by educators, families, children, and our Governing Council

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In line with Vygotsky's sociocultural theory, we recognise that learning and understanding are socially constructed through interaction and dialogue. To ensure children's thoughts and feelings are heard, we engage them directly in co-creating our philosophy. During announcements over a week, children and young people were given the opportunity to share what OSHC means to them.

This process provided a scaffolded space for every child to contribute, respecting their developmental abilities and ensuring that all voices were included, regardless of which days they attended. By actively involving children in shaping our service, we support their agency, collaborative learning, and the co-construction of meaning, reflecting Vygotsky's principle that knowledge develops through social interaction within a community.

OUR VOICES ARE HEARD • MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WORKING TOGETHER • MEETING PEOPLE • OUR HAPPY PLACE

COMFORTING & SAFE • SHARING • PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT

HELPING • POSITIVE & HAPPY • FUN ENVIRONMENT • ENTHUSIASTIC • CURIOUS

RESPECT FOR EDUCATORS & PEERS • ENCOURAGING EDUCATORS • EXCITING

RESPECT OSHC TEACHERS • NICE & CALM • REALLY COOL • PERFECT • FOOD

OUTSIDE PLAY • NEW ACTIVITIES • SPONTANEOUS

PLAYGROUND PLAY • GOOD PLACE TO COME IN VACATION CARE

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