

Mawson Lakes School OSHC CENTRE PHILOSOPHY

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners of this land and strive to support them, their culture and unique role in the life of this region. We want to embrace the diversity of our families and do all that we can to help them feel welcomed in our OSHC community.

Mawson Lakes OSHC aims to provide high quality recreational care for primary school age children, in a friendly and comfortable environment while their parents work, study or have respite. In accordance with the school and community needs the service provides Before School Care, After School Care, Pupil Free Days, and Vacation Care.

We believe that Out of School Hours Care is a valuable and integral part of Mawson Lakes School and the local community. We are confident that this is a place where children can have fun, are able to play together, have time to learn new and useful skills through thoughtful programming, planning, and spontaneous activities, as well as develop friendships and positive interactions with other children and educators.

In order to meet these beliefs we ensure that Mawson Lakes OSHC is a safe, stimulating and caring environment. We take pride in employing diverse educators with a wide range of skills and talents who provide a range of challenging and rewarding activities in a relaxing and comfortable environment. Children are encouraged to contribute to our program and philosophy, which grows and changes as our centre's needs change. We strive to show the importance of our natural environment and emphasize our effect on the planet, as well as encourage good health and hygiene practices. We appreciate the resources our school offers us: the Denison Centre, STEM building, Multimedia room, classrooms for homework, playgrounds, Nature Play and vast outside area.

Mawson Lakes OSHC encourages communication and social interactions by promoting group activities while recognizing individual needs. Educators encourage children to listen and respect the feelings of others, while we grow together in teaching leadership, responsibility and self-regulation. We hope to instill compassion while problem solving which leads to lasting behaviour and thoughtful habits from the children.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have responded as a team to increase and facilitate an even higher level of cleanliness and care for our centre and children. Social distancing, extra hand-washing and sanitizing, cleaning/disinfecting of toys and games, as well as use of extra staff and longer hours help us to keep the service as clean and safe as possible. We also check children in and out on the iPads for families so that there is less shared touching of screens, markers are on floors to distance the students from each other during playtime, and we have currently given up excursions to minimize outside exposure to germs.

At Mawson Lakes OSHC we aim to be affordable, accessible and address the needs of families in the local community. We encourage all parents to participate in the service and we respect families' rights to have a voice in the decision-making. We use community resources such as Inclusive Directions, Novita, Gowrie, DfE and many others to help establish a diverse and well-supported centre. Feedback from children, parents and community resource groups help us to continually improve and grow. Mawson Lakes School Governing Council is the License Holder for the centre. The centre has an OSHC Parent Committee which reports to the Governing Council. Parents are welcome to participate in the OSHC Committee and are encouraged to give input on all aspects of OSHC matters.