What we provide

-An excellent long day, educational program for families of the local community.
-A curriculum that includes literacy, numeracy, communication, the visual arts and principles of social justice and equity.
-A welcoming, diverse and inclusive community.

CURRICULUM

The Centre and staff take great pride in providing the best quality education for all children at the Centre. "The curriculum encompasses all the interactions, experiences, routines and events, planned and unplanned, that occur in an environment designed to foster children's learning and development."

The staff use the "Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – Belonging, Being & Becoming" as the basis for their program. The program is based on play and intentional teaching where the educators are deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in their decisions and actions to promote learning for all children.

We believe that 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.*
- *Assists children to develop relationships and concepts*
- *Stimulates a sense of well being"*

Source: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia p.9

Written documentation of each child's learning journey is maintained by staff and sent home throughout the year. Families are encouraged to contribute to the curriculum throughout the year by taking on a collaborative approach when gathering information about each child and family.

As we believe that families are the children's first and most influential educators we place great importance on building strong relationships with all families and work in partnership to create the best learning outcomes for every child.

Our Music Teacher visits the Centre twice a week to provide music classes for all children.

FRAMEWORKS AND REGULATIONS

The following frameworks & legislation guide the Centre in all areas of the Curriculum.

The Early Years Learning Framework *

Outlines the principles, practices and outcomes essential to young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school. It is part of the Australian Government's National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care.

The framework emphasises play-based learning, the importance of communication and language (including literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development. The five learning outcomes it defines are:

1 Children have a 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 confidant and involved learners.
5 Children are effective communicators.

The National Quality Standard **

These include seven areas (known as quality areas) against which early childhood education centres are assessed. The standard helps families to be involved in the ongoing quality development of their early childhood education service.

St Mary's Child Care Centre received a rating of exceeding the National Quality Standard in 2014.

The Education and Care Services Legislation ***

This provides the legislative foundation for the National Quality Framework.

The Education and Care Services Regulations ****

These set out the National Quality Standard for all education and care services.

St Mary's Child Care Centre Policies

Our policies are based on best-practice research, educational theory and practice and provide a sound framework in which families, staff and children can interact cooperatively and equitably. Families are invited to share in policy development and evaluation.

* http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources-Kit/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf

** http://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework

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http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/subordleg+653+2011+cd+0+N

****http://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-regulations