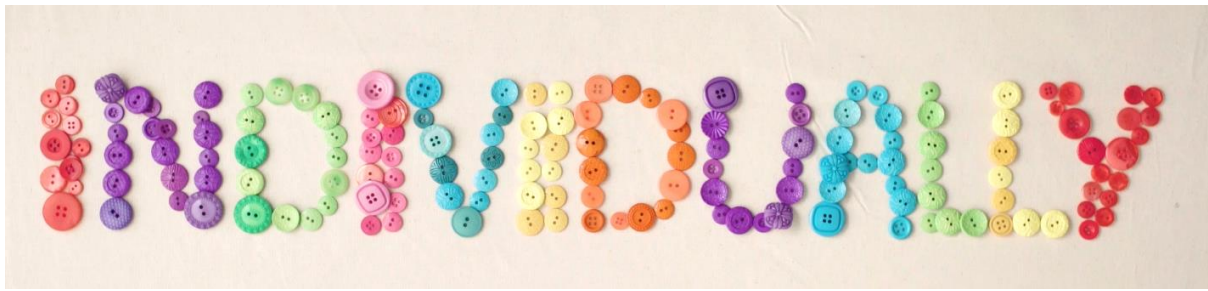




St Brendan's OSHC Philosophy

WATCH THEM GROW



Catholic Early EdCare Statement

Each child is a unique individual, created in the image and likeness of God. Each has the capacity to succeed, regardless of their diverse circumstances and abilities.

- We commit to understanding each child, recognising and responding to their individual needs and nurturing their optimism, happiness and sense of fun.
- With a focus on each child's individuality, we commit to celebrating differences, encouraging active decision-making and assisting in the development of autonomy, resilience and confidence.

St Brendan's OSHC Statement

All children are catered for at St Brendan's OSHC and they are provided with opportunities for their unique identities to flourish daily. Children know they are safe, secure and supported in their OSHC environment, which has been designed to nurture their individual needs. There is never a dull moment either - with the children's optimism, happiness and sense of fun continuously promoted. Our educators maintain the strong, respectful and trusting relationships with the children, allowing the children to be confident in their interactions and open to freely express their feelings, interests and ideas with those around them. We provide numerous opportunities for the children to develop their sense of independence, allowing them to engage in play and leisure opportunities by themselves or with their peers, despite their differences. The children enjoy contributing to their daily program and reflecting in the day book, helping them to take responsibility for their time at OSHC. Children's interests are extended upon through programming activities such as blender experiments, train tracks, craft activities and outdoor play. When faced with challenges or unsuccessful first attempts, the children are provided with the opportunity to persist and become resilient, helping improve their sense of worth and achievement.

CREATIVELY

Catholic Early EdCare Statement

Creative thinking and inquiry processes are essential for lifelong learning. For children, creativity and curiosity are tools to explore their world and grow.

- We commit to providing environments and experiences that encourage children to explore, to express themselves, to make their own choices and initiate their own experiences.
- Through play and leisure activities, children develop the confidence to take responsibility for their own learning, personal regulation and collaboration.

We commit to creating learning environments that promote choice, support imagination and encourage discovery.

St Brendan's OSHC Statement

St Brendan's OSHC has an open and inviting creative space with resources that are always easily accessible for the children to self-select for play. Our OSHC environment is designed to reflect the children's interests by providing spaces for them to freely follow and extend their own interests and allowing the children to initiate their own or contribute to their peers' creative experiences. The children eagerly participate in creative arts such as drawing, painting, sculpture, dance, music and storytelling on a regular basis. We take pride in the children's artworks, framing them to elevate their importance. Construction toys and equipment are another favourite creative activity at OSHC, allowing the children to assemble and construct objects based on their own ideas and imagination. Technology and media are also regularly utilised by children for enjoyment, in particular the walkie talkies and Just Dance and Mario Kart on the Wii. Children at St Brendan's OSHC regularly engage in imaginative play as well, creating roles and scripts with their peers or sharing ideas in areas such as home corner. Multiple relaxation activities are provided for the children – manipulating slime and playdough that they create with the help of educators.




Catholic Early EdCare Statement

Positive, respectful relationships are essential for learning and form the basis of our Catholic identity.

- We commit to creating a welcoming environment that promotes the establishment and maintenance of genuine partnerships with children, families, educators and support professionals.
- We support children in making connections with others, developing understanding of different personalities and developing social and emotional skills.
- We recognise and explore relationships with the school setting and the wider community.
- We model positive and life-giving relationships for children and support the development of their sense of belonging through developing a strong sense of social and emotional wellbeing and connection to their world.

St Brendan's OSHC Statement

St Brendan's OSHC provides areas for the children to spend a large proportion of their time with peers, alongside areas for solitary engagement. Our educators model positive interactions with each other and the children, displaying empathy while promoting discussions around significant emotional states. Children are encouraged to regulate their emotions by concentrating, focussing and calming; this is assisted through various resources in the room such as the slime, calming posters, ribbons or the sensory box. At St Brendan's OSHC, the children sign into the service through their Zone of Regulation, helping children understand their emotions and provide them tools to get back to the green zone. The older children at the service display leadership skills and appreciate responsibilities such as packing up their belongings and assisting educators with tasks. Our service sets aside time and space for the children to eat together, with the children particularly enjoying afternoons where they have a picnic outside. Having children of mixed ages and abilities at the service fosters kindness and empathy while helping the children become aware of ways in which others are included or excluded from both physical and social environments. The children cooperate and work collaboratively with others to make decisions in group games as well as express their ideas and perspectives. We have worked hard to ensure our service is a welcoming environment where all children and their families are respected and actively




encouraged to collaborate with educators on programming decisions to ensure experiences are meaningful. This allows the families, school and service to share insights and perspectives amongst each other and engage in shared decision making. We pride ourselves on creating genuine and trusting partnerships with the families, the school and the wider community. During group time, the children are able to have conversations about the community and the world around them and their presence in both of these settings.



Catholic Early EdCare Statement



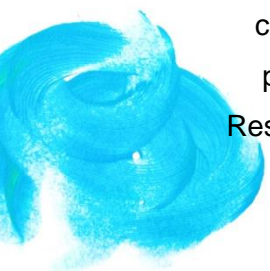
Confident children feel good about themselves and are willing to try new things. They feel proud of what they can do and are more able to learn from their mistakes. This helps them to do better at school, at home and with friends. A child's confidence is accelerated when parents or adults place their trust and belief in them.

- We create environments where children can build confidence. Through play and leisure activities, we support children to experience fun, enjoyment, mastery and success.
 - We respect the efforts of all children and help them believe in themselves.
 - We provide supportive and active learning environments in which children are encouraged to make choices, take risks and become problem-solvers.
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St Brendan's OSHC Statement



Educators at St Brendan's OSHC foster independence and initiative thereby nurturing children's agency and their leadership skills. The children are encouraged to challenge themselves to try new things such as group games and new foods such as hummus. Educators regularly remind children that it's okay to fail or face difficulty and take the time to recognise their efforts and progress in challenging situations. As a result, children persevere even when tasks prove to be difficult and build confidence through the satisfaction of achievement. Children confidently test and transfer strategies that were effective in solving a problem from one situation to another. Our children experience a sense of belonging at OSHC, where their development and self-esteem is furthered. Self-esteem is critical to a



child's capacity to develop positive images about their abilities, interests and future. Our educators provide the children with leadership tasks and responsibility, asking for their help with these tasks. Our educators also exhibit qualities of fairness, humour, sympathy and understanding in order to build respectful and trusting relationships between children; children and adults; and amongst adults. There is flexibility in the daily routines and programming at St Brendan's OSHC, reflecting the children's interests and needs. Resources available at the service are important and significant to each individual child, reflecting their interests.




SPIRITUALLY



Catholic Early EdCare Statement

All children are innately spiritual. As a faith-based organisation, it is important to us that the spirituality of those in our care is respected and nurtured. Helping children grow spiritually is not about teaching spirituality but about providing opportunity for children to experience a spiritual "way of being" in an age-appropriate way.

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- We promote an environment where children feel connected to their world and have a sense of belonging to their family and community.
 - We encourage them to understand the values of love, respect, fairness, justice and equity.
 - We encourage respect and care for our world and a recognition of all people as belonging to the family of God.

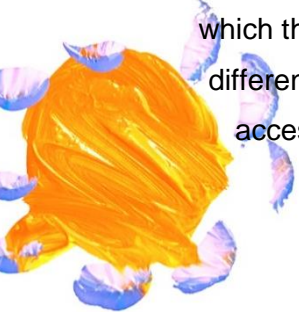


St Brendan's OSHC Statement

At St Brendan's OSHC, our educators are always seeking ways to encourage the children to understand and respect the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition at our service. Our children understand that they are born belonging to a culture not only influenced by traditional practices, heritage and ancestral knowledge but also by the experiences, values and beliefs of individual families. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are

promoted at our service through games, resources, craft activities and displays. The program reflects the importance of social, cultural and religious diversity by celebrating important dates throughout the year such as St Patrick's Day, NAIDOC Week and Ramadan.

This allows the children to have their culture, identity, ability and strengths acknowledged and valued at OSHC, whilst also learning about other important cultures and identities. The calendar is one of the most important things that the children have as a link to the world in which they live, allowing them to celebrate all faiths and cultures. Educators value children's different capacities and abilities and provide an environment for all. The children also have access to the school prayer for consistency and are provided with an environment that welcomes their faith and religion.



Catholic Early EdCare Statement

Respect for self, others and our world is a core element of our Catholic identity. The development of positive relationships is dependent on mutual respect. Learning respect for themselves and the things around them is central to us helping our children grow in all kinds of ways.

- We show respect for children by recognising their individuality and assisting them to react in positive ways to the similarities and differences between people.
- We uphold all children's rights to have their cultures, identities, abilities and strengths acknowledged and valued.
- We provide opportunities for children to experience mutually enjoyable, caring and respectful relationships so they can learn to respect themselves, their spaces and begin to understand their place in the wider community.

St Brendan's OSHC Statement

All children are catered for at OSHC, regardless of their ability or age. Inclusion and participation are promoted, with our educators demonstrating positive communication through words and actions that teach the children how to read, understand and respond to

the behaviours and emotions of others. Educators regularly reinforce the value of respect and provide the children with opportunities to show it. The service promotes respectful, genuine and trusting relationships between the children, their families, the school, the Parish and the wider community. Our children are respected at OSHC as they are offered roles and responsibilities that assist them in understanding that they are valued members of the community. One such responsibility that the children take on at OSHC includes respecting their environment, which they do by packing up and cleaning up after themselves as well as serving their peers afternoon tea. Our service also further educates the children on respect for the environment through the programming of recycled craft activities and taking care of the OSHC fish. The children habitually negotiate relationships and roles in play and leisure experiences whilst taking action to assist one another to participate in group games and activities. They also engage in mixed play allowing the children to learn new things from one another, inclusive of all capabilities. The children appreciate establishing their own routines, behavioural guidelines and consequences, and contribute to fair decision making about matters that affect them. Through exhibiting qualities of fairness, humour and understanding, respectful and trusting relationships are built here at St Brendan's OSHC.

