

## OOSH Philosophy

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is committed to supporting family life as the foundation of society and of the Church. One aspect of this is providing educationally sound and professionally staffed Early Education services through St Nicholas Early Education.

*“...the family is the first school of the social virtues that every society needs...” Gravissimum Educationis n3*

St Nicholas OOSH Centres provide high quality Education services using best practice guidelines. Our goal is to facilitate each child’s optimal social, intellectual and physical development and education, in partnership with parents and carers.

- We believe the child’s school age years are critical for learning and development. Our quality play based programs are linked to the framework, offering a planned and reflective approach
- We believe we create an aesthetic environment, where learning and intentions are visible, and every child can make choices regarding their learning, explore, investigate, listen and observe and feel a sense of belonging
- We believe in creating environments and resources which emphasise accountability, advocacy and promotes children’s understanding of the natural environment and sustainability
- We believe we embrace diversity. Our practices are inclusive of all culture, religion, gender, abilities and family structure
- We believe in building genuine relationships and partnerships with families to ensure the optimum education and care of each child and encourage family involvement and participation
- We believe in the importance of working cohesively as a team to provide high quality education and care to each child and their families
- We believe it is paramount to build genuine long-term relationships with the community