



We build strong **PEOPLE**
strong **FAMILIES** strong **COMMUNITIES**

YMCA Children's Services Philosophy

Our Mission is the YMCA of Canberra works from a base of Christian values to provide opportunities for all people to grow in body, mind and spirit.

Our Vision is a community which is connected, inclusive and resilient

Our values underpin all that we do: Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility

Our Beliefs and commitments

- We believe the environment is important to the education and learning dynamics of a child. Children learn through a play based curriculum where they are given opportunity to discover, engage, master and challenge their ideas and thoughts. We believe all children are capable and competent with individual personalities; they have the right to be treated with dignity, to be respected, listened to and have a voice to be heard.
- The YMCA has an ongoing commitment to sustainable practices which minimize our impact on the environment.
- We are committed to forming supportive relationships with children, families and educators that reflect the overall health and wellbeing of children, including valuing friendships between individuals, Educators and Children.
- We are committed to providing an open door policy for families, community and visitors, where families are encouraged to share ideas, information, skills, knowledge and time.
- We commit to being a highly regarded and reputable provider of children's services in the Canberra region and nationwide.
- We believe there is a wealth of learning, knowledge and support when we network in and with the community – local, national and world wide.
- Through our programs we acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and respect the contributions of children, families and educators past, present and future. We believe in the importance of bridging the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families and are committed to reconciliation actions.
- We believe that Children's Services is constantly changing and evolving. We are managers of our own change, therefore are committed to an active research culture with ongoing discovery and research. We believe in the importance of challenging thinking through reflective practice, further study and professional development to stay abreast of current theories and approaches. We are committed to being advocates for our profession and to promote recognition of the important role that education and care plays in our community.
- We are committed to building a culture of respect, reflection and high quality practices with curriculum construction that reflects social justice principles, particularly around equity in the value of differing and similar cultures, races, genders, social choices and family structure.