



# The Pocket Early Education and Care

## Our Philosophy

The Pocket Early Education and Care, a home away from home. Nestled within the pocket of St Lucia we provide environments rich in exploration and comfort for each child by offering a place of support, curiosity, diversity and fun. Relationships between children, educators and families are the foundation of the vision and mission for our service. Our educators will actively promote challenging experiences, create intimate interactions and guide children's thinking, which will establish a sense of "Belonging", where children feel safe, respected and valued.

We believe all children are active learners, creating and building knowledge, confidence, social competence and independence through their daily experiences. We understand that children need adequate time, space and support to be who they are to imagine, believe and to explore. Our curriculum will be co-constructed and supported by educators from children's voices, emerging ideas and family input. We encourage a team approach where all educators, families and children play a valuable part in setting goals and supporting learning at The Pocket. Through embracing the individual unique character of each child and catering to their development with play-based curriculums, we are able to map each child's individual learning journey within our inclusive environment.

At the Pocket Early Education and Care we believe in each child's right to play and the importance of celebrating their discoveries and learning. We trust children to be involved in decisions affecting their world and believe that children's agency along with guidance, care and teaching by educators, shape children's experiences in the future.

We strive to nurture each child to explore, investigate and share their learning and ideas with our community. Our educators seek to develop strong attachments with each child and family to support the growth of a village for the children of The Pocket. Our educating approach identifies and embraces the individual learning dispositions of each child allowing us to support connections with their world, people and places. Our focus is for children to be active participants within their local community and the world in which they know.

Our team embodies professional standards in our practices, interactions and relationships. We value self-reflection and encourage our educators to challenge and collaborate each other's thinking to ensure the learning environment and opportunities are in the best interest of the child.

Our Pocket family fosters a diverse culture influenced by core traditional practice, ancestral knowledge and indigenous ways of knowing and being. We celebrate the richness of our community through strong engagement, recognising and respecting our family's cultural aspirations and belonging through continual family contribution to our service and curriculum. The Pocket provides an inclusive environment for LGBTIQ- parented families and respect the individuality and diversity in family structures building upon an inclusive society. We aim to foster interdependent awareness and acknowledgement of our traditional owners and their land upon which we practice our learning and live within The Pocket community.

We strive to empower our children to care for our precious environments through adopting sustainable practices and the provision of learning opportunities aimed at developing healthy attitudes towards the environment and sustainability for future generations.

It's simply 'The Pocket Way'.

"Our children are like flowing rivers forever changing and navigating new courses throughout their lives"