

Article for Summit Sun from Snowy Mountains Care and Early Learning Centre

Junior Summiteers

Article underneath - Centre ad (on file)

Advocacy and Support for children by Carol Barkley

'My Place in Space' (1989) written by Robin and Sally Hirst is an award winning book that not only introduces children to the wonders of astrology and concepts of distance in a humorous way, but also helps children understand their place in the grander scheme, starting with each child's home environment, then expanding beyond the home to the community, their country and then to other countries in the world.

Developing a sense of identity helps children connect with and contribute to their world. Belonging, Being and Becoming are the framework for young children's learning in early childhood services. The Early Years Learning Framework was developed to assist early childhood educators and teachers support the goal that \* "all Australians become – successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens." \*(Melbourne Declaration on Education Goals for Young Australians, 2008)

With this in mind it is important that family members support educators and teachers at Snowy Mountains Care and Early Learning Centre to advocate for equity and for children's rights. This is clearly documented in the Early Childhood Australia's (ECA) Code of Ethics and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children are entitled to protection and support, to healthcare and education, food, shelter and play.

At SMCELC we endeavour to create an inclusive environment that supports these goals in our program and is visible throughout the centre. The preschool, toddler and baby play based programs include language, literacy, numeracy, science, art and active indoor and outdoor physical play. Stories, music and dance reflect different languages and cultures. The preschool children are presently discussing children sponsored through World Vision and similar sponsorship programs. Parents are invited to add to the photo display of sponsored children from here and from all around the world.

Photo represents the preschool children's interpretation of children from around the world based on the Unicef and the United Nations Children's Fund book 'Children Just Like Me'.