

## Californian Gully Kindergarten

### Philosophy Statement

Californian Gully Kindergarten is a learning environment that is engaging, enriching and empowering.

We:

- offer a stimulating, child focused, play-based learning program that provides children with endless opportunities to explore and learn through their own unique intelligences and grow at their own developmental level;
- are passionate about encouraging children to become confident, creative, and independent thinkers & learners; and to be kind and compassionate members of their community;
- support children to extend their skills and knowledge and to develop a passion for lifelong learning;
- provide an inclusive indoor and outdoor program and highly value the learning provided when children are immersed in a kitchen and gardening program;
- recognise that children's learning and development is holistic;
- value positive, caring & inclusive relationships between children, families, educators, early childhood professionals & the community;
- nurture & support children in these vital early years of life;
- value reflective practice as critical in enhancing children's learning and development.
- commit to the safety and wellbeing of all children;
- acknowledge & pay our respects to the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land that we journey upon, the first people of this country. We pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders past, present & future.



We provide a secure learning environment & culture that reflects our kindergarten's values of:

- respecting the rights of self and others;
- showing a caring and kind attitude to other children, adults and all living creatures;
- an appreciation of language, literature, creative arts, music and movement;
- an awareness of the value of maths and science;
- a love of nature and the environment.



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### Children as Active Participants

- We recognise all children are competent learners and active communicators rich in knowledge and experience.
- We know children are capable & resourceful with varied interests & abilities and need to explore, grow and learn in a nurturing and unhurried manner.

### Families as Active Participants:

- We acknowledge the family as the children's primary caregiver and first educator.
- We value each family's knowledge of their child, their participation and contributions.
- We encourage shared decision-making between families and educators in order to enhance each child's learning and development.

### Educators as Active Participants:

- We provide rich learning experiences that engage children while respecting their stage of development and supporting their emerging interdependence, resilience and sense of agency.
- We adopt integrated teaching approaches to engage and empower children and use routines to strengthen children's sense of wellbeing.
- We value child-directed and adult-led design of our natural and constructed environments.