

Drouin Early Learning Centre

Philosophy Statement

Our kindergarten program philosophy is underpinned by the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

Our values

We offer all children and families a safe, warm and welcoming and friendly kindergarten

Learning is play based and both child and teacher led. We believe for children to grow, learn and participate fully and actively in society we must provide a nurturing, creative and stimulating play based environment. We provide both parents and children opportunities to participate in and shape the learning environment.

The program is child focused with dedicated staff.

- Educators learn about and build the program using the children's interests and strengths and by giving children input into the program. The forming of close working partnerships with families helps to build on, and share knowledge about children. A curriculum that values contributions from families helps to promote children's general sense of identity, security and wellbeing. Families are given opportunities throughout the year with interviews and information sheets to help the educators learn about the child and their family.
- We believe it is important for educators to be engaged with the children to help scaffold, support or extend their learning. Educators will spend time with all children when they play, extending ideas, posing challenging questions, listening, watching and encouraging discussion between children.

We believe that play is crucial to the development of children.

- Play is the way children explore, discover and learn about their world, each other and themselves. Experiences are active, hands on and open ended, where children will be seen exploring, discovering, problem solving, creating, collaborating, co-operating, communicating and imagining, allowing for all children to succeed. We provide opportunities for children to initiate and choose play areas, materials and peers, being self-directed with the support of educators. Children will be offered activities where they can play individually, in small groups and in large groups. . The play based environments will help children to develop knowledge and practice skills in an atmosphere where they are encouraged to become independent learners. Children will be encouraged to try varied and different activities to develop new skills. We understand that children learn mathematical and literacy concepts through meaningful play and will provide a literacy and numeracy rich environment where children engage in experiences to use and develop skills in speaking, listening, writing and learning about written words and numbers.
- We believe that every child is special and valued and through play we aim to provide opportunity for children to experience a wide range of situations and gain skills to help develop self-confidence and self-worth.

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- Within our learning environment, children develop a sense of community and group identity along with an understanding of how they can contribute. We empower children with the skills, attitudes and knowledge that will help them develop mutually respectful and rewarding relationships with people who are similar and different from themselves. We support each child's sense of 'being, belonging and becoming'.

We value the outdoor environment and promote knowledge about, care and respect for the natural environment

- Children are provided with an indoor/outdoor play session in recognition that children learn both indoors and outdoors. We also acknowledge that children have different learning styles and therefore provide various types of learning areas in both the outdoor and indoor environments.
- We believe in promoting knowledge around the importance of caring and respecting the natural environment. We believe in encouraging the children to learn about environmental and conservation issues; emphasis is placed on the use of natural and recycled materials, wise water usage, recycling, and positive regard and sense of responsibility for all living things.

We value and recognise the families and wider communities of Drouin

- The relationship between the community and the kindergarten will be promoted by talking to children about their community and inviting community members to share experiences with the children. Family events will be held for families throughout the year and invitations to the wider community are included to these events when appropriate. The kindergarten will provide the community with information about what has been happening at kinder through regular articles in the local newspaper. When possible, excursions will be held locally to encourage community awareness with the children.
- Families are recognised as the children's first teacher. Parents' views and input are supported and valued. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the enhancement of the program, rosters and the daily life of the kindergarten.