



## Havilah Road Preschool

### Philosophy Statement

We believe in acknowledging the original custodians of this land, the Dja Dja Wurrung people, their language and all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community.

We also celebrate our multicultural community and embrace the diversity of each individual, their family's values, cultures, beliefs and language.

We believe that families are the children's first teachers and encourage each family to be involved in the children's learning. Families are respected and valued for who they are and each child, family and educator is a valued individual in the kindergarten community.

We believe kinder should be fun, happy, nurturing and inclusive.

We believe that play is essential in the lives of young children and that children learn most effectively within an unhurried environment where they feel a sense of belonging.

We believe in an emergent, reflective, play based curriculum that is planned in response to children's developmental needs and interests. Through these experiences children are supported to develop the skills and concepts that enable them to become lifelong learners where each child develops and learns in their own unique way and rate. By providing a combination of teacher-initiated and child-initiated learning experiences, all children are able to positively participate in the program at their own level and reach their individual potential. We have high expectations for each child.

We believe in offering children opportunities to explore, problem solve, engage, marvel, investigate, create, experiment and express themselves.

We believe in developing children's confidence and resilience in an environment which is welcoming, caring, safe and supported.

We are committed to the SAFEGUARDING of children and young people.

We believe that children's learning is enhanced if they are encouraged to think and ask questions about things they wonder about, share their knowledge and skills and build positive friendships & relationships with those around them.

We believe in providing a sense of place where children take ownership of their work and where the philosophy is reflective of the rights of the child, where children are part of the decision making process.

We believe in the importance of the outdoor environment and believe providing children with a stimulating and challenging space that is inclusive of both natural and man-made materials. We believe in sustainable practice. Through modelling and including children in sustainable practices such as tending the vegetable garden, saving water, compost and recycling, children are able to develop knowledge and understanding about the world around them

We believe in celebrating children's achievements through reflection, meaningful documentation and individual portfolios.

At Havilah Road Preschool Staff work together, strive for best practice and engage in ongoing professional learning. We endeavour to follow the four core values of the YMCA: respect, responsibility, honesty and caring.

Havilah Road Preschool is where children...have **fun, play, learn, discover and grow.**