

Lakes Entrance Preschool Centre

Philosophy Statement

Our Children - Values and Beliefs

We believe in:

- A play-based curriculum that takes into account children's individual strengths, abilities and interests and is guided by a combination of incidental learning and intentional teaching.
- Providing a quality, innovative early childhood program that nurtures and values all children and acknowledges their voice.
- Respecting and valuing children's individuality and equipping them with the tools required to feel empowered within their kindergarten environment.
- Every child has the right to quality education and care, regardless of culture, religion, socio-economic status, family structure, lifestyle, disability or gender.
- Holding children's aspirations at the forefront of our practice and in understanding the vital importance of working collaboratively to strengthen relationships with children, families and communities to provide positive outcomes for all.

Our Families and the Community - Values and Beliefs

- We believe that parents and guardians are children's first and foremost teachers.
- We value our connections with families and strive to develop positive partnerships through respectful relationships.
- We continue to work towards providing a service that embraces change and is responsive to the changing needs of our community by continued ongoing evaluation and reflection.
- Our service values and recognizes the professional knowledge, experience, skills and personal qualities of staff as our most valuable resources.
- We acknowledge the Gunai/Kurnai first nations people as the traditional owners of the land and ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and values are respected and embedded into our program.

Our Environment - Values and Beliefs

- We believe in promoting sustainability within our environment by modelling sustainable practices. By doing so, we aim for children to develop an awareness of lifelong practices that we hope will continue.
- We commit to providing an environment for children and young people to feel safe and we support their wellbeing by ensuring all aspects of our service complies with the Child Safe Standards.
- We are committed to the Healthy Early Childhood Services Achievement Program ensuring our policies, processes and practices support the general health and wellbeing of our kindergarten community and include: Healthy Eating and Oral Health, Sun Protection, Physical Activity and Movement, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Safe Environments.

Our Staff - Values and Beliefs

- We value, support and respect our fellow educators by ensuring they have opportunities for professional learning and time for critical reflection and continuous evaluation.
- Our practice reflects the socio-cultural environment in which we live and strives to develop respectful relationships and meaningful programs with local indigenous people. Together as teachers, children, families and communities we construct knowledge; we value everyone's input and involvement in open, reciprocal communication to empower further learning and development.
- Our practice reflects the values of the YMCA of Ballarat- Honesty, Respect, Caring and Responsibility.