

Longwarry Kindergarten

Philosophy Statement

We would like to recognise the traditional owners of this land, the Kulin Nation on whose land we build our community on today.

We believe:

Play based learning supports children becoming competent and confident learners.

Our program aims to:

- Respect each child as an individual and support and encourage the potential of each child, providing for different styles of learning;
- Have a holistic approach to educating children, recognising the connectedness of mind, body and spirit;
- Provide welcoming and irresistible play spaces that reflect the backgrounds of the children and families at our centre;
- Provide children with choice to engage them in learning, stimulate curiosity and encourage active exploration;
- Build on children's strengths and use their interests and ideas to motivate them to learn.
- Value relationships with children and recognise that interactions and conversations are vitally important;
- Use intentional teaching to develop and enhance the children's awareness of the world around them. Staff facilitate and scaffold children's learning by introducing materials to extend learning and allowing time for meaningful interactions and uninterrupted learning;
- Make learning fun.

Each child is part of a family and good communication and partnerships with families will maximise learning in all settings:

- We respect family as the primary carers of children and encourage open communication between parents, educators and other services;
- Parent participation is welcomed and encouraged. We love families to share their talents and traditions with the group;
- We aim to build on family and community connectedness and sense of being, belonging and becoming to help children feel secure, confident and included;
- Educators strive to connect with families and communicate well.

Everyone should respect themselves, others and our environment:

- Children are the future carers of our world so sustainability is a main focus of our program;
- Educators continually aim to develop self-esteem and confidence in children through interactions, conversations and experiences. We strive for all children to feel both accepted for who they are and a sense of belonging at kindergarten;
- We have high expectations for all children and promote an environment that is accepting and inclusive;

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- We encourage children to be independent and responsible members of our groups;
- Children have a voice and educators listen to and respect their ideas and opinions. They have a say in what and how they want to learn;
- Educators respect and promote multicultural ways and celebrate the benefits of diversity, which is demonstrated in everyday practice.

Ongoing and reflective practice is vital to ensure learning is relevant and meeting the individual needs of the group:

- Our planning and practice follows the Early Learning Years Framework which aims to provide young children with opportunities to maximise their potential and develop a foundation for future success in learning;
- Educators keep up to date with current research and knowledge, engaging with questions about philosophy, ethics and practice;
- Educators aim to work with families and other services to provide the best outcomes for each child;
- We value local and community knowledge;
- We observe, reflect and question how to enhance children's learning and family involvement in our centre;
- As Educators, we critically reflect on our own practice and how can we do better.

We aim to develop a sense of wonder, enthusiasm and love of learning in each child at Longwarry Preschool as they continue their journey through life.