

Mary Beck Kindergarten

Philosophy Statement

What do we want to achieve?	What will success look like?	What activities/behaviours will encourage success?
<p>1. We promote a welcoming environment where parents and preschool children feel comfortable and children's individual needs are catered for.</p>	<p>Happy, smiling faces of children entering the preschool and being involved in the program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of an indoor/outdoor program for the majority of the session. • Children given opportunities to make choices and decisions so they can influence the program. • Play spaces are created that relate to children's areas of interest. • The program is organised so all children have the opportunity to participate and learn. • Children will be involved in a variety of individual, small and larger group experiences. • The program is play based and age appropriate. • As children are unique and develop at different rates, the program will change and develop over time. • Children will be encouraged to use their imaginations, discover new things and make friends. • The staff will scaffold and extend children's learning. • Diversity will be respected and inclusion practised. • Staff to be knowledgeable of the VEYLDF and to use it to form the basis of the program. • Staff to be aware and practise the Early Childhood Code of Ethics.

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	<p>Parents receive frequent newsletters to keep up to date with happenings at the preschool. In this way parents know about what is coming up, and can then contribute to preschool decisions. Parents can also share their interests and talents in the program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents encouraged to attend staff/parent meetings to enable communication. • Parent encouraged to share their particular skill or participating in the “helping roster”. • Parents are welcome to help with excursions and working bees. • An organised “welcome day” where parents can meet other parents would be held. This would be important for any new families who have moved to our rural preschool so they would feel welcome.
<p>2. We provide a safe learning environment which incorporates the indoor and outdoor environment.</p>	<p>An indoor and outdoor area free of hazards. New equipment being bought: and broken, old or unsafe equipment being thrown out or fixed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff checking outdoor area before children play and report any problems to the Shire or YMCA or maintenance officer. • Staff being up to date with new regulations e.g. First Aid and OHS obligations. Also child safety standards. • Parents being involved with suggestions with what to buy with money they have fundraised for. • Staff being up to date with new regulations and OHS obligations.
	<p>We promote healthy eating and have joined the Achievement Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular notices given to families about healthy eating and healthy recipes used when cooking. Also cooking using vegetables from our vegie garden.
<p>3. We encourage a friendly setting where children are respected.</p>	<p>Displaying children’s artwork on walls so they can take pride in their work and parents can comment on such achievement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff spending time to display the art work for everyone to admire. Staff could ask children if they would like their art work displayed.

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	<p>Staff show respect for the children and families and the interactions between staff and children should be warm, caring and responsive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to be at the children’s level where possible e.g. sitting or squatting to make eye contact so meaningful conversations can take place. • Staff to show an interest in children’s successes and have the best possible outcome for each child in mind, at all times. • Staff to spend time with each individual child.
<p>4. We value the input of the local community with their support in the running of the preschool.</p>	<p>Valuable links are made between the kindergarten and community organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting help from the local community in our fundraising endeavours. I.e. Lion’s Club. • Current information about local community services is displayed and available for families to access. This is on the notice board. • A kinder-prep transition program is in place to assist with children’s transition to different local schools. • Local excursions/incursions are organised e.g. ambulance visit, police visit and excursion to the fire station. We also try to shop locally for our supplies. • The children participate in the Neerim South Carols by Candlelight, as a fundraiser for the Neerim South Hospital. • Regular contact with services that cater for children with additional needs. • Regular meetings with the Aboriginal support workers.