

Mirboo North Early Learning Centre

Philosophy Statement

Our Beliefs

We are supported by the YMCA Ballarat Early Years Management (YEYM), a parent committee and a parent advisory group.

We aim to help develop a **strong sense of identity** within the children where children feel safe, secure and supported. It is the aim of educators to provide a welcoming, responsive and safe environment in which children feel confident and relaxed in their everyday learning. Our education and care programs act as a bridge between the home environment and the greater school environment. We acknowledge that children and families have mutual rights and that every child and family are unique.

Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Children will develop a strong sense of belonging to groups and communities and respond to diversity with respect. We acknowledge our local Gunai/Kunai people and foster an awareness of Indigenous culture. We value family and community and encourage mutual interaction and support of each other. We encourage parent input. We offer diversity in the program inviting special visitors and including extended family in events. We celebrate community events with the children. All children are respected and considered as capable and confident learners and we recognise the significance of inclusion, equality and opportunity for children and families within social and cultural contexts.

Children have a strong sense of well-being

We believe in the importance of building social, emotional and physical well-being in the children. The children are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and to care for others. We value and promote sustainability and encourage responsibility in regard to our environment. We are developing a healthy eating program and are further working on this to ensure all children are eating healthily. The children take part in games and physical challenges to develop their muscles, balance, coordination, fine and gross motor skills. Autonomy and independence is encouraged in the children which builds their resilience and self-help skills.

Children are confident and involved learners

Confidence is built in many ways. When children feel safe and know what to expect, they become confident. They build confidence through trusting the adults in their environment and when given considered meaningful encouragement. Children are respected as learners and educators keep individual and group records, learning and developmental objectives and progress notes. We plan programs based on the Victorian Early Years Learning Framework, our educational theorists and the children's interests. We implement a "play based" approach utilising hands on experiences in the environment where the children have opportunities to develop concepts, problem solving skills and learn socially from their peers. Families are encouraged to be involved in the program and are welcome to participate in activities.

Children are effective communicators

We believe children learn effective communication through examples. The adults communicate in a warm and caring way with the children. If there is an issue with communications among the children, stories or role-play are used to emphasise a point. The educators use clear speech, rhymes, songs, and verses to help develop the children's speech and vocabulary.