



Newstead Preschool

Philosophy Statement

Respect Each Other

- At Newstead Preschool, respect for each other is central to the running of our program. Respect between the children and educators, respect between the families and educators, and recognising and fostering respect between the children and their families.
- We foster this respect by listening to each other and hearing what the other is saying. By sharing ideas and suggestions with the children and families in an open and honest discourse. By welcoming all families regardless of who they are, where they have come from, or where they are headed.
- A shared environment of respect assists us to plan and program with the wellbeing and learning needs of each child in mind.

Respect for the Environment

- Respect for the environment is also a central theme running through our program. When entering the Preschool, the natural environment will be something that draws your focus. All three areas – the front yard, the Preschool room, and the natural play space at the back of the preschool, use the natural environment to enrich and inspire learning.
- Respect for the natural environment is taught explicitly, through things such as recycling and visits to the local bushland and river and implicitly through *being* in our rich natural environments inside and outside the building, and using and experimenting with natural and recycled materials for play.

Engaging with Community

- Being part of the close Newstead community is of major benefit to the Preschool and the children and families who attend. Our immediate community is fostered through Preschool events, invitations to be part of the Preschool routine, and sharing responsibilities when it comes to maintaining the Preschool, through rosters, fundraising and parent committee.
- We are always seeking to find new ways of engaging with this wonderful community - to support and be supported by it. For example we have a close and respectful relationship with Newstead Primary School and as a result we are continuously improving the transition process for children and families. The Preschool also has close relationships with many local businesses and organisations.
- We believe that it is important for our preschool community to be strong in itself, but also to be connected to the wider community. This way the children feel part of a bigger picture and when additional support is needed, the community will work together as a whole.

Learning through Play

- Play is how children learn in the early years. It is our job as educators to provide an environment where meaningful play is facilitated, encouraged and supported. We do this by providing rich learning experiences that invite and compel our children to engage with the materials. The physical environment is set up in an intentional and equitable way, so that all children can access the learning experiences in their own time and at their own level.
- This means that the children find their own pathways through learning – literacy, numeracy, early science concepts, social skills, and many other areas are intuitively explored and internalised through this approach, using explicit and implicit teaching approaches.
- Also central to our approach, is that our children contribute to the program, reflect on their own learning, and their ideas and opinions are expressed, listened to and recorded daily. Listening to and recording, and acting on children's voices is a focus of our approach.