

## North Bendigo Preschool

### Philosophy Statement

At North Bendigo Preschool we believe in acknowledging the Dja Dja Wurrung people as the original custodians of this land, therefore we will provide a program where the children develop a respect for and understanding of the culture and traditions of not only the Dja Dja Wurrung people but of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.

#### **In regard to children we believe:**

- Children are curious, competent and active learners who learn while engaged in play, therefore we promote inquiry and investigation and allow children to take risks in a safe environment.
- Children learn when the program is based on their experiences and interests, therefore we employ a variety of strategies to ascertain this information. We use intentional teaching strategies to extend upon these interests and provide a balance of educator and child led experiences.
- Children are independent and are able to make their own choices and decisions in regard to their play and learning, therefore resources are accessible to all children and we actively seek the children's ideas and incorporate these into the program.
- The best outcomes for children are achieved through them developing positive and strong relationships with others. We support this through the physical environment, providing opportunities for collaboration and communication and guide children to engage in conflict resolution.
- Resilience is developed when children are able to express their emotions, therefore we provide a curriculum where children can express their feelings in a variety of positive ways.
- Children learn at their own pace; therefore, we provide open ended play spaces which cater for individual learning styles.
- All children have the right to a quality program, therefore the inclusion of all children is of the highest priority

#### **In regard to families we believe:**

- Each child learns within the context of their own community and that the experiences they have in their home environment are vital to learning, therefore we work with families to bridge the gap between home and kindergarten.
- A child's family is their first teacher; therefore, we believe in engaging in honest, open communication and the two-way sharing of information.
- Children's learning is optimised when families and the educators develop a relationship of mutual trust and respect. We welcome any contributions to the curriculum that immediate and extended family members are able to provide and endeavour to make all family members feel welcome at all times.
- As a kindergarten community, it is important for families to have the opportunity to connect with one another, therefore we will provide opportunities for this to occur.

#### **In regard to the community we believe:**

- Children learn about themselves and their world by building connections with the community, therefore we value incursions and excursions as tools for learning.

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- We value the diversity within our kindergarten community as well as in the wider community and promote respect for individual backgrounds and cultures through role modelling, play experiences, resources and discussions.
- We value what the community has to offer and are involved in community programs to promote healthy lifestyles, inclusion and literacy.

### **In regard to the environment we believe:**

- Children learn by connecting with natural environments and resources; therefore, we promote the use of natural materials and offer an indoor/outdoor program.
- Through gardening outdoors and the ongoing care of our indoor plants, the children develop an appreciation of nature and how to care for the environment.
- Children learn about sustainable practices through actively engaging in these practices on a daily basis, therefore we embed sustainable practices into the program. We encourage nude food and engage in ongoing conversations with the children, to develop their understanding.

### **In regard to educators we believe:**

- Each educator brings their own knowledge, experience and unique skills to the team and these are utilised within the program.
- In continuously improving, therefore we regularly engage in professional development.
- Other professionals hold skills and knowledge which complement our program; therefore, we work in partnership with them to support families and children.

We are committed to safeguarding children and ensuring that their rights are adhered to in every way.