

Oak Street Kindergarten



Philosophy Statement

Educational program and practice / natural environment

We are a child focused, play based kindergarten, in which children are stimulated to grow in all areas of development through making decisions and choices that influence their learning and wellbeing. An element of risk taking, exploration of natural materials and the emphasis on the process, rather than the product, are important elements of this kindergarten's philosophy. We value the learning our natural environment provides with sustainable practices being an integral component of our program.

Your child is seen as a unique individual and we offer experiences and challenges to teach and nurture skills they will use for the rest of their lives. Our program is inclusive, and we support the needs of all children. We encourage children to be enthusiastic learners and provide a secure, stimulating environment in which to grow and develop. Educators promote children's strengths through a combination of intentional teaching and play based learning strategies.

We believe that all children, educators and families have the right to be treated with respect in a positive and accepting environment, where the rights of all individuals are acknowledged.

We value and respect our Educators, their knowledge, experience and commitment. We recognise and fully support their continued professional learning and reflective practices as an essential element in the delivery of a quality kindergarten program.

Children's health and safety / Relationships with children

We endorse and affirm the Early Childhood Australia-Code of Ethics. Our YMCA-Early Years Management kindergarten is committed to child safety and operates in accordance with national Child Safe Standards. The health and total well-being of each child is important to us. Situations are cultivated to develop each child's self-worth, self-regulation and confidence, as well as encouraging them to care for their bodies in a healthy and safe manner. Children's behaviour is guided in a respectful, positive and consistent approach from all Educators.

Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

We acknowledge that families are children's first teachers and we aim to work collaboratively with family members to support each child to reach their full potential. We encourage families to take an active role in their child's kindergarten years. We welcome the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and development and we value families input and participation in our programs.

We respect the diverse cultures of children and families attending our kindergarten by celebrating and incorporating various family traditions into our program. We value the indigenous heritage of our community and include 'Acknowledgement to Country' at the beginning of meetings, liaise with local elders and explore indigenous activities throughout the year.

We explore opportunities in the local community to expand children's learning and experiences.

We believe that 'Play Skills Become Life Skills'