

## South Castlemaine Kindergarten

### Philosophy Statement

Our basic philosophy at this centre is that kindergarten is a preparation for life.

We believe that the program is to meet the needs of the children at the centre.

We believe the children need:

- To feel safe, secure, respected, valued, cared for, happy, encouraged and reassured.
- To know about themselves, others, the environment, routines and limits.
- To acquire living skills including social and emotional skills, cognitive skills, language and physical skills.

We offer a guided play based program as we believe that children learn through active play.

The adult role in the program is to provide a nurturing, stimulating, responsive environment and to interact with the children in a way that makes learning possible and extend them when they are ready based on a variety of assessments.

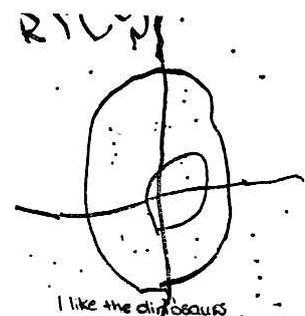
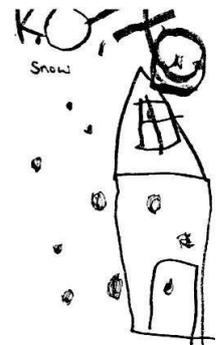
We provide a balance between child initiated and adult supported experiences in which the children use a wide range of equipment and materials. Behaviour guidance is a component where positive reinforcement and encouragement in developing respectful relationships with peers and adults is role modelled.

We believe that parents have an important role to play in the development of programs, so opportunities for participation are offered and cooperation and involvement encouraged.

All parents are invited to contribute ideas at any time.

We believe in:

- An environment where staff acknowledge that families are a child's most significant relationship, where staff are active in building strong partnerships and involvement with parents on the care, nurturing and education of their children.
- An environment that has a strong commitment to the ongoing professional development of staff, so that staff skills and knowledge are constantly being challenged and updated.
- We work to the Victorian Early Learning and Development Framework, in all our planning, evaluation and assessments. We also acknowledge the national Early Years Learning Framework.
- A program that seeks to build a connection with and a sense of wonder with regard to nature and concern for present and future sustainability through growing plants, using tank water, minimizing waste and using/recycling materials thoughtfully.
- In providing a stimulating and inspirational program that fosters curiosity, creativity and a love of learning.



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- Developing a sense of fun.
- Developing positive self esteem, confidence and independence.
- That children are self motivated and creative.
- Developing problem solving techniques, to question and be curious.
- Consolidating all skills and developing new ones.
- Showing respect to others – peers and adults, and to respect equipment.
- Fostering an inclusive program in regard to gender, ability, age, physical attributes, social status and family structure.
- We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and are inclusive of indigenous children and their families in programming and practices.

