



Thorpdale and District Kindergarten

Philosophy Statement

Our philosophy is underpinned by the Early Years Learning Framework.

Educators

We offer all children and families a warm, welcoming and friendly kindergarten. We ensure our educators are approachable, accessible and inviting to all families. Our educators understand and support the individual needs of each child and family enrolled at our service by adjusting the program and routine accordingly. Our educators pride themselves on forming strong relationships with the families by sharing open and honest information on a regular basis. Our families believe the children look up to the educators as role models and it is important that the educators are caring and supportive towards the children and families.

Environment

We provide an environment which is nurturing and full of rich learning opportunities, that supports each child's individual learning needs. Our environment provides many opportunities for children to be supported in their learning by educators, peers and family members.

Our outdoor environment provides safe, supervised opportunities for children to experience the great outdoors. Our outdoor environment recognises that children need to have access to many different opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge of the world around them.

We value the outdoor environment and believe in encouraging the children to learn about environmental and conservation issues; emphasis is placed on the use of natural and recycled materials, wise water usage, recycling, worm farming, vegetable gardening and positive regard and sense of responsibility and care for all living things.

Program

Our program works with the families and children to create and feed curious and ever expanding minds. Our program has a flexible structure which assists in engaging all children in a various range of new and familiar experiences. Our program assists children in building confidence within themselves as well as others and the world around them. A curriculum that values contributions from families helps to promote children's general sense of identity, security and wellbeing. Families are given opportunities throughout the year with interviews and information sheets to help the educators learn about the child and their family. Our program aligns with the Early Years Learning Framework and ensures a fun, inclusive and creative environment, catering for all strengths and abilities.

Children

We believe that play is crucial to the development of children. We offer play based experiences which are active, hands on and open ended allowing children to explore, discover and learn about their world, each other and themselves. The play based environments assist children to develop knowledge and practice skills in an atmosphere where they are supported and encouraged to become independent learners. Children will be encouraged to try varied and different activities to develop new skills. We understand that children learn mathematical and literacy concepts through meaningful play and provide an environment which is literacy and numeracy rich environment where children engage in experiences to use and develop skills in speaking, listening, writing and learning about written words and numbers.

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Within our learning environment, children develop a sense of community and group identity. We empower children with the skills, attitudes and knowledge that will help them develop mutually respectful and rewarding relationships with people who are similar and different from themselves. We support each child's sense of 'being, belonging and becoming'. We ensure children are supported and cared for in a kind and nurturing manner and create a warm, safe and welcoming environment.

Community/Families

We value and recognise the importance of positive relationships with our families and the wider communities of Thorpdale.

Families are recognised as the child's first teacher. Parent's views and input is supported and valued and, where possible, taken into consideration. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the enhancement of the program, the committee, rosters and the daily life of the kindergarten.

The relationship between the community and the kindergarten is promoted by talking to children about their community and inviting community members to share experiences with the children. Family events are held for families throughout the year and invitations to the wider community are included to these events when appropriate. The kindergarten provides the wider community with information about what has been happening at kinder by regular articles in the local paper. When possible, local excursions will be held around the local community to encourage community awareness with the children. We visit the local primary school to assist with developing positive relationships and a smooth transition to school.