

Willow Grove Kindergarten

Philosophy Statement

Willow Grove Kindergarten aims to provide valuable initial educational experiences of the highest quality, in a warm, safe/secure and friendly environment, in partnership with families and local community.

Education, Programming and Practice

We recognise each child as an individual and program to each child's strengths, interests, and unique qualities. We value each child's prior knowledge and experiences within the context of their family, culture and community and recognise families as children's first and most influential educators.

We believe children learn in a variety of ways through play, intentional teaching and experimental experiences within the structure of a daily routine. Our program is 'play based' and focuses on 'hands on' learning and whole child development. We make use of spontaneous reachable moments to scaffold children's learning by asking open ended questions, providing feedback, challenging their thinking and guiding their learning. We endeavour to be flexible and responsive to the children's needs and interests. Learning occurs within a program which is actively reflected by the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), placing an emphasis on a child gaining a sense of belonging, being and becoming.

We recognise children as capable, competent and resourceful individuals and organize a program which aims to maximize learning opportunities and challenge each child. We believe children progress well when they, their families and educators hold high expectations for their achievement in learning. We make curriculum decisions that promote inclusion and participation of all children.

The preschool program aims to prepare children for future learning by:

- Encouraging independence;
- Extending imagination, exploration/discovery and creativity;
- Developing interaction and communication;
- Encouraging exploration and questioning;
- Fostering friendships;
- Developing fundamental skills in writing, reading and numeracy; and
- Respect for others and the environment.

Relationships with children

We aim to build strong, meaningful and positive, relationships between educators and children. Every child, family and educator is valued and catered for by:

- Respecting and recognising individual differences;
- Developing a positive self-esteem and social confidence;
- Creating a shared sense of belonging to the community;
- Listening and responding to others ideas and opinions;
- Working and co-operating together on shared projects; and
- Provide opportunities of socialising together as a community.

Staffing

Our staff is committed to providing high quality early childhood education to preschool children by:

- Attending regular training and professional development;
- Keeping up to date on the latest educational practices and principles;
- Working as a team and reflecting on practices;
- Working collaboratively with other professionals in the community.

The Environment, Health and Safety

We strive to create a safe, warm, inviting environment, where children feel inspired to explore the environment.

Children are encouraged to be curious and questioning in their learning. Children can explore a variety of built and natural environments and we create areas that allow children to engage in different levels of play and socialisation.

We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for the children, ensuring regular maintenance of the building and playground. Children are supported and supervised in their play at all times by caring professionals, which gives them a strong sense of security.

We believe in promoting sustainability within the environment by modelling sustainable practices.

We endeavor to develop healthy lifestyle habits with the children by:

- Using a sun safe policy and providing families with hats and sun screen.
- Modelling healthy eating habits and educating families on providing healthy lunches to children;
- Planning and promoting physical activities as part of the daily program.

Collaborative partnerships with families and community

We give the children the opportunities to share their own experiences and welcome families to participate. This helps to build strong connections within our community and gives children an understanding of what it is to belong to their community. As we initiate and maintain community relations, we seek to foster open communication between staff and families.

We endeavor to work in partnership with families, the community and other professionals to work against bias and prejudice at all times to achieve high quality outcomes for all children.