



Wonthaggi North (White Road) Kindergarten

Philosophy Statement

Wonthaggi North Kindergarten respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which the kindergarten stands, the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people, thus we considerately pay our respects to their elders, past present and future. The Kindergarten also respectfully recognises that the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people were the first teachers to educate children on this site, thus forming the foundation for our teachings today.

Wonthaggi North Kindergarten provides kindergarten aged children with experiences and opportunities based on:

- our understanding of the children and the families in the centre;
- current educational literature;
- our knowledge of teaching theories;
- the VEYLDF and EYLF (Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and the Early Year Learning Framework).

In recognising that families are the child's first caregivers and educators we:

- support families to share in the decision making of their child's development;
- aim to develop strong relationships with our families, encouraging them to actively engage in the educational learning process both at kindergarten and in the home;
- treat each member of our kindergarten community with care and respect.

We:

- believe that play comes first, and our program is built upon children's interests, needs and strengths. Acknowledging the need for flexibility, it moves and changes with the children, family, community and educators;
- value strongly the cultural diversity of our community.
- value our indigenous culture by celebrating significant dates such as Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week and show our respect for indigenous culture by honouring National Sorry Day. Further, respectful and authentic indigenous teachings are also woven throughout our programs with the support of the local Koorie Engagement Support Officer and the Koorie Pre-School Assistant and the local indigenous community;
- understand that children are capable and competent learners and that the experience of kindergarten will broaden the children's outlook on life and enable them to develop the skills, confidence and resilience to meet the challenges in everyday life;
- recognise educators, families and communities as collaborators and co-constructors of children's learning and development;
- aim to develop programs that provide a variety of learning experiences for children and to provide an environment which supports and extends children's development as individuals and as part of a community;
- promote an awareness of respect for our environment and an appreciation of our natural world;
- aim to provide a safe place of belonging where children and families develop a sense of identity and community.