



Erica Preschool

Philosophy Statement

<p>1. Connection with Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preschool environment will feel welcoming to all family and community members. • The Preschool program will reflect the local community's needs. • Parents will be able to contribute to the Preschool program in a variety of ways, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stay and help out in sessions - Share ideas for activities - Be involved with the Parent Committee • Community members will be aware of the Preschool's program and contribute to it e.g. drop in resources; donate time. • Families will be aware of other services in the wider community. • Children will become aware of their local and wider community. • The Program will reflect the multicultural society we live in, including indigenous culture. • Children will be comfortable with visitors to the Preschool program. • Educators will feel supported and valued within the Preschool and wider community. • The children will participate in a Bush Kinder program connecting them to their local environment. • Educators and parents at Erica Preschool are committed to creating a child safe organisation. • Good mental and physical health and wellbeing will be promoted by the Preschool for children, staff and families. • Staff, parents and children will feel valued and respected.
<p>2. A natural environment for children to learn in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The indoor environment will have a relaxed, natural feel to it – lots of wood, glass, plants, natural materials for children to explore. Plastic will be limited as much as possible. • The outdoor environment will have real grass, dirt, sand, trees and plants which attract wildlife. • Children will have open-ended access to natural materials such as sand, water and dirt. • Children will be able to explore their natural environment – climb trees, run barefoot through grass, roll down hills, plant seeds and care for them.

3. Child Focused Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educators will be engaged with children in their learning.• Educators will be involved in and encourage reflective listening with the children.• Educators will incorporate children's interests in the program.• Educators and parents will collaborate on plans to support each child's development and evaluate verbally throughout the year.• Children will be happy, confident, engaged and enthusiastic about the program.• Educators will feel supported by the Parent Committee to provide a child-focused program which recognises play as the basis for children's learning.
4. Confident, capable, caring children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will lead their own play based learning.• Children will be able to access a range of materials independently.• Children will be able to articulate their strengths and be aware of areas they're working on strengthening.• Children will attempt to resolve their own conflicts with Educators' support.• Children will be gentle, kind and empathic with one another, adults and live creatures.• Children will be respectful of environment and equipment and living creatures and treat them with care.• Children will gain knowledge of their natural environment through the Bush Kinder program – identifying local flora and fauna, gaining orienteering skills and have sound risk assessment skills.• Children will build up core strength and stamina through physical activity in our all-weather outdoor program and Bush Kinder program.