

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

At Parklands Community Preschool we believe that early childhood is a unique and valuable stage of life. We are committed to the care and overall development of each and every child and our vision is that the children in our care experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life. (EYLF p.7)

Our aims and beliefs are as follows:-

With Regard to the Children:-

- We believe that all children are unique, capable and resourceful
- We believe that ***Belonging*** acknowledges children's interdependence with others and is the basis of relationships in defining their identities. Relationships are crucial to a sense of ***Belonging***. (EYLF p7.) We encourage children to develop positive relationships with others, realistic self-concepts and good self-esteem by developing strong feelings of self-worth. We want to foster their ability to be adaptable, build confidence to make choices and develop tolerance and understanding of others.
- We believe childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world - simply ***"Being"***. It is about the present, about knowing themselves, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life. (EYLF p.7)
- Children's identities, knowledge, understandings, capacities, skills and relationships change during childhood. ***Becoming*** reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow. (EYLFp.7) The program must recognise the unique and individual needs of the child. Their inherent ability, style of learning and rate of development is based on their unique environment from birth. The program must also reflect the diverse backgrounds of each child and show understanding and acceptance of their values.
- We believe that children's ***play*** is the single most effective and appropriate vehicle for their learning and holds a place in their world equal to everyday experience. ***Play*** emphasises learning through process rather than being judged by an end product. Through play children can be extended in interests and abilities and express their needs. Through ***play*** we can encourage co-operation, consideration, self-motivation and inclusive attitudes - we can encourage children to express themselves appropriately, communicate, listen to others, to make decisions and build resilience.
- We believe that experiences and planning should strive to meet children's physical, social, emotional, cognitive and creative needs, interests and abilities in line with the ***National Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes***. We believe a quality program is one that balances stimulation, flexibility, newness, diversity, creativity, investigation, experimentation and discovery - the wonder of rainbows and butterflies - with a reliable routine, familiarity, consistency, security and warmth.
- We want to encourage children to develop good habits of nutrition, health and hygiene.
- We believe that all children have the right to feel valued, respected and nurtured. (***United Nations Rights of the Child***)

- We believe that Preschool should be a happy experience filled with fun, learning and friendships.

With Regard to the Environment

- To extend and complement the home by providing a loving stable and secure environment in which each child can develop to their fullest potential. The environment should be both stimulating and challenging while at the same time being hygienic and safe. The environment should have defined and well equipped areas that are arranged to promote independence, foster decision making, encourage involvement and reflect an inclusive approach.
- We believe that the environment acts as the third teacher, assists children to build relationships, provides opportunities to make meaning and connection and should reflect the lives of the children, families and professionals who are a part of our centre.
- We will help support children to develop an understanding of the relationship between land, people, plants, animals as well as an understanding of the need to respect and care for our natural environments.
- ***We are active participants in maintaining a sustainable preschool service.***

With Regard to the Parents:-

- We believe parents and families are the most significant contributing factor towards their child's development. As such, we believe in open and positive communication between families and staff to exchange information and to facilitate the meeting of individual needs and desires of each family in regard to the care and education of their child. It is important parents feel empowered and confident in the important task of child rearing and that they feel supported by and can seek advice from their community.
- We will welcome any family involvement according to their own needs, interests and opportunities - saving boxes for craft, helping on excursions, joining the management committee, presenting experiences with children, helping with the garden and social events.
- Families are welcome at the Centre to take part in the routine and activities.
- Information should be available to all members of the community regarding all aspects of Centre management and operations, philosophy and policies and practice and that this should reflect a consultative and collaborative development. This information should be made available in community languages when necessary.
- Using the ***National Quality Framework*** as a guide all parents, including the management committee, have the opportunity to comment on and influence service provision.

With Regard to the Community

- We believe that it is important to develop meaningful connections with the broader community. We understand that the community has an impact on children and that the children in our care have an impact on the community.
- It is important that we support children to adopt values, attitudes and ways of living that will enable them to contribute positively to their community.
- We continually strive to meet the need of the community and to be involved in community events.

- We need to be aware of the importance of our Indigenous ancestry, acknowledge the traditional custodians of our land, integrate ATSI learning into our programming and acknowledge events such as National Reconciliation week.

With regard to the staff:-

- All staff need have an understanding of the *Principles (Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships: Partnerships: High expectations and equity: Respect for diversity: Ongoing learning and reflective practices) and Practices (Holistic approaches: Responsiveness to children : Learning through play: Intentional teaching: Learning environments: Cultural competence: Continuity of learning and transitions: Assessment for learning)* that underpin the National Early Years Learning Framework.
- When caring for young children it is essential that all members of staff work as a team toward a common goal. In achieving the goals of the Preschool, the individual skills of each staff member will be fostered and utilised when caring for the children. Staff members shall share their expertise with other staff members so the worth of the group as a whole is broadened. A team teaching approach should also demonstrate respect for all individuals within the team.
- To provide opportunities to extend their learning and knowledge through training and workshops.
- All staff should have genuine role and choice in decision making and feel involved in all areas of service delivery and development. Our aim is to foster shared decision making. Using the *National Quality Framework* as a guide, staff will have the opportunity to comment on and be involved in all aspects of the service provision.
- To promote positive and open communication amongst all members of the staff team - communication being the basis of a happy centre.
- We believe that our team are advocates for children and the early childhood profession.

Reviewed 3rd June 2012
 Accepted: Tracie Gosling
 Seconded : Karen Mitchell

From our Philosophy we have developed our Policies. These are statements on how we operate on a day to day basis and may be modified subject to approval of the Management Committee.
