

Willoughby Community Preschool Philosophy

The Preschool acknowledges the Gamaragal People as the Traditional Owners of these lands. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. Our Preschool provides quality care in an educationally rich and caring environment for young children of our community aged three to five years. We achieve this through the following areas:

Children:

We are inclusive. We believe in supporting children's positive self-esteem. We believe that each child has unique potential and that they are resourceful and capable. Our educators recognise and celebrate the important learning that takes place during the early childhood years. We encourage children's desire and engagement in play-based learning experiences that develop their interests, well-being, confidence and independence. We promote children's active participation in their own learning. Curriculum decisions are guided by our educators upholding children's agency. We recognise children's different learning styles and utilise a range of pedagogical practices.

We strongly value our diverse family community. We ~~aim to~~ support children's awareness of diversity and promote a culture of acceptance through inclusive practices and celebrations reflecting the diversity of our families and the wider community.

Families and the Community:

We are collaborative. Community is at the core of our values and is what makes the Preschool unique for our families. We build genuine partnerships with parents and families and value their contribution to their children's learning. Our connections with children and families go beyond the preschool years as does our support. Our legacy within the community spans several generations and we celebrate what makes our Preschool unique to achieve such long-term partnerships in the community. The Preschool is also inclusive with its broader communities, maintaining a strong connection with our Sister Service, Gainmara Birrilee Preschool Brewarrina NSW.

Management together with educators aim to create a collaborative environment for the children, their families and the wider community. We partner with parents to achieve the best learning outcomes for the children. We also achieve this by actively inviting parents into the learning environment, when appropriate, and run several social interactions for the children and families throughout the year. We collaborate with other organisations and support services to enhance children's learning and development.

Learning Environment:

We are innovative. Within the Preschool we deliver an innovative and engaging environment. The Preschool is committed to achieving a sustainable environment and focusing on environmental responsibility, both in the Preschool and with our families.

We are well resourced and consistently invest in the Preschool and its staff. Our philosophy around our learning environment is to consistently adapt to achieve best practices in Early Childhood Education, within the framework of our values and heritage in the community.

Educators inspire children through thoughtful planning, achieving a nurturing, safe, stimulating learning environment. We operate with a structure and embedded routines in the daily program, whilst with flexibility around the children's interests and love of learning. Throughout their time at the Preschool, we prepare children for the next part of their education in formal schooling. This is achieved through the provision of a range of hands-on resources and technologies that promote enquiry-based learning and provoke children's motivation for learning.

We consistently engage in critical reflective practice to create an environment that provides continuity for children's interests and extends their prior knowledge. We are constantly reflecting on ways to improve or adapt our Preschool to the best outcomes of our children. We encourage children's sense of fun, exploration and curiosity, promoting their work as unique individuals.

Educator and Professional Practice:

We consistently invest in our team. Our teams of educators work collaboratively and develop respectful relationships based on open communication. Educators engage in an ongoing cycle of assessment and planning. We support our team's development through a reflective process for continuous improvement. We prioritise professional development and mentoring for our team. We recognise the importance of wellbeing and provide a range of support services for our team and all stakeholders at our Preschool to ensure this is a priority.