



2018

Strathalbyn Kindergarten Philosophy Statement

Communities united in learning through play

Strathalbyn Kindergarten provides a safe, caring and supportive environment where children, families and educators feel welcome and are included as an integral part of our kindergarten community. We provide quality inclusive teaching and learning environments across our Coronation Road and Burkett Drive sites in line with the *National Quality Framework*. Our curriculum is underpinned by the Principles, Practices and Outcomes of the *Early Years Learning Framework*, and *Preschool Indicators of Numeracy and Literacy*.

Educators work in partnership with families, recognising and valuing their place as children's first educators. We foster respectful relationships valuing and celebrating cultural diversity within our community. Families are supported and encouraged to be actively involved in their child's learning, our curriculum, the kindergarten community and our collaboration with the broader community in diverse and flexible ways. We recognise and value the influence of the local and broader community in the lives of our children and their families.

At Strathalbyn Kindergarten we believe that quality Early Childhood practice enables children to engage in learning at various levels and at their own pace. We value the strengths, knowledge and experience that each educator contributes to the kindergarten and recognise the positive effect skilled educators have on children's lives. Educators model and foster life-long learning practices.

We respect each child as a capable learner with unique skills, prior knowledge, experiences and perspectives. We celebrate individual differences and actively include children's voice when planning for learning and offer a culturally appropriate inclusive curriculum. We implement a challenging and enriching emergent play-based curriculum that provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. We believe that play enables children to expand their thinking and enhances their intrinsic desire to know and learn.

Our belief is that play spaces in natural and sustainable environments invite open-ended interactions, spontaneity, risk taking, sensory awareness, exploration, discovery and a deeper connection with nature. We value long periods of uninterrupted play where educators support children to freely explore and interact with both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. We embrace principals of sustainable thinking and encourage children to respect and care for our environment.

Inclusivity, Empowerment, Optimism, Resilience, Creativity,

Learning Values and Dispositions: Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, Well-being

Optimism, Curiosity, Empathy, Persistence, Creativity, Problem Solving, Collaboration