

H M Kininmonth Kindergarten - Statement of Philosophy

Learning:

We have an open-ended, play-based program as we believe play is the optimum way children learn in early childhood. A play-based curriculum allows children to learn through discovery, inquiry and experimentation.

We believe children should have the opportunity to be children and to have free play, time and the opportunity to direct their own learning through play.

All children should be able to reach their potential, feeling both safe and challenged. Staff work as a collaborative team to facilitate children's learning through open ended questioning, demonstrating, responding to children's ideas and taking advantage of spontaneous learning opportunities and incorporating these into the program.

Some of the important skills we would encourage in children are:

independence, persistence, resilience, tolerance, problem-solving, confidence, respect, compassion and competence. We would like children to be enthusiastic participants in their learning, to be independent and be willing to "have a go" in a safe and comfortable environment.

Safe and secure environments:

We believe it is important for children to be in a happy, safe and secure environment. Feeling safe and secure and supported enables children to feel confident to actively participate and engage in all aspects of the program. When children trust the environment and staff, they feel safe and confident to take risks and explore new experiences.

Importance of natural environment:

At H M Kininmonth Kindergarten we believe the children should have lots of opportunities to be immersed in activities and experiences based on natural resources both inside and outside. Our playground has been designed to ensure the children are able to enjoy lots of different natural elements. We include "bush kinder" experience as part of our program where children enjoy up to three hours a week in our bush kinder play space. We also believe that children can be powerful agents

Listening to children's voices:

We believe that everyone in the kindergarten environment should feel included (children, staff and families).

It is important for children to feel respected as unique individuals and for their voices to be heard.

We value children's ideas and opinions. This helps them feel they are respected and part of the group. It empowers them in many different ways.

Respect for diversity:

We value the uniqueness of each child and respect children's differences. We believe it is important to respect all children, educators, parents and visitors. It is important to embrace diversity so everyone feels valued, able to be heard and able to express themselves. We believe it is important to encourage children to become accepting of others and respect each other.

Wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem:

It is important for all children to have a good sense of identity, good self-esteem and confidence in themselves. A positive self esteem will help children grow and develop to their full potential.

Responsive and inclusive program:

We believe it is important to have a program that is flexible and inclusive. The program is designed to meet the needs of individual children and their families through the Early Years Learning Framework. We believe the program should foster all areas of the children's development and be based on observations of each child – their developmental level, their interests and their strengths - as we aim to continually enhance their learning and development.

Relationships:

We believe it is important to develop meaningful effective relationships between children, staff, families, other early childhood professionals and the local community. It is important to have a holistic approach to each child's learning and development with all concerned working for the best interests of each child. Family and kindergarten collaboration is encouraged. It is important that children see that their families are included in the program and in decision making.

Indigenous practices:

We acknowledge the Gulidjan people and the Wathaurong people who are the traditional custodians of the land here in Winchelsea. We believe that the children can understand, appreciate and learn from the culture of Aboriginal people.