



# Our Philosophy

## Torquay Kindergarten Inc Philosophy

We wish to acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we come to live, play, and learn. We endeavour to embed the history and living culture of Indigenous peoples within our program and to continuously grow our understanding, knowledge and ability to share this information. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

The staff at Torquay Kindergarten Inc believe that early childhood is a time to foster children's learning through acknowledging each individual's characteristics of belonging, being and becoming in an inclusive, play based and reflective environment. The staff believe that strong collaborative relationships between the children's families, culture, educators, professionals, and the community empower children to co-construct and further develop their own identity, voice and understanding of their world.

The staff at Torquay Kindergarten Inc believe that a holistic approach of implementing reflective practices is crucial to the responsive engagement for children's learning and teaching within the centre environment. The staff believe that the children's emergent learning and developmental outcomes should foster children to:

- Have a strong sense of identity
- Be connected with and contribute to their world
- Have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Be confident and involved learners
- Be effective communicators

Torquay Kindergarten educators are advocates for helping children build the skills that are necessary for them to progress in their learning and development, as they transition to school – and beyond.

Children, educators and families will be supported by the use of the Early Years Assessment and Learning Tool as an evidence-based program to empower educators to identify potential next steps in children's learning.

Through understanding each individual child's strengths, interests, and abilities; observing children and reflecting on the learning taking place, educators plan to be purposeful and considered across the 8 domains of learning and development that stem from the VEYLDF.

- Identity and community-social

- Wellbeing-emotional
- Learning Dispositions
- Communication-interactions
- Communication-symbols and text
- Learning and communication-numeracy
- Wellbeing-movement
- Learning and Identity-thinking skills.

Educators value and recognise the importance of each individual's childhood and aim to embed the eleven 'Child Safe Standards' and 'Reportable Conduct Scheme' (July 2022) into practice within the service; providing strong leadership in the drive for cultural change so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practice. We aim to prioritise child safety, to be proactive in our desire to achieve the best outcomes for children and acknowledge the importance of the positive recognition and celebration of cultures within our community.

We recognize the importance and significance of sustainability to our early childhood programs. The addition of the 'Junk Trunk' reflects our endeavour to reduce our dependence on purchased creative 'loose parts and our commitment to recycling. We are developing community partnerships and working on delivering best outcomes for our planet and our children, with our children and their families.

Torquay Kindergarten values the opportunities for regular outdoor play through its Bush and Beach Kinder program. We believe that natural environments and habitats, in partnership with unstructured play, stimulates creative and imaginative development. Through engagement with inspiring local community spaces, children foster a respect and love for the natural world.

As educators we aim to be responsive, through flexibility and resourcefulness, to our ever changing global and local climate. We will reflect and adapt the delivery of our programs to include multi strand learning (online technologies & home learning) in response to unforeseen circumstances and uncertainty. With sensitivity, we will support children, families, staff, and our community to remain connected and to learn through play.

The staff at Torquay Kindergarten Inc work towards effectively weaving all these components into a fluid and child centred reflective practice, where children can explore Belonging, Being and Becoming.