



## **Black Hill Kindergarten Philosophy**

We aim to provide a warm, safe, secure and nurturing environment. We strive to build trusting relationships with all children, to enhance each child's sense of belonging and wellbeing, which in turn supports each child's holistic development. We will ensure each child feels love, security and a sense of belonging, and will scaffold the development of each child as an individual who can grow their separate identity and qualities while still contributing within a large group of peers.

We believe each child is a unique individual with their own needs, interests, abilities and backgrounds. The kindergarten will work alongside families to provide a stimulating and educational curriculum and quality care. We value partnerships with families and strive to create a welcoming environment for children, parents and the wider community. We also believe that when there is a collaborative, respectful partnership between all parties then everyone benefits. We value parent feedback and suggestions with sharing of ideas, skills and family input forms.

A homelike environment is a base for the children's experiences, and we believe at Black Hill Kindergarten our environment should reflect a sense of consistency between home, the wider community and the Centre. We believe it is important to provide a self-directed play-based curriculum, which intrinsically motivates children to explore and discover their environment. We strive to achieve an appropriate balance between children's choice and teacher directed learning whilst keeping a flexible attitude to cater to children's individual and daily needs.

We believe all children are active learners, creating and building knowledge, learning, self-image, confidence and independence through their daily experiences and by nurturing in each child a positive understanding of themselves, sense of responsibility, self-discipline and self-esteem. We believe the curriculum should be co-constructed and supported by educators from children's emerging ideas, family input and community issues.

Children will have the opportunity to grow and learn at their own pace and develop a respect for others in a tolerant, anti-bias and non-sexist environment. We recognise children as "active citizens" from diverse backgrounds and beliefs. We value the wider community such as Black Hill Primary School, family support agencies, Pinarc, and the Wathaurong Tribe and other early childhood organisations.

Our Kindergarten uses the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework to guide our programming and planning for children's learning. We incorporate the documents' values and outcomes into our service programs to ensure all children are working towards the same overall outcomes to learning during their time at our service. Moreover, the document encourages staff and families to work in partnership in order to achieve learning outcomes for children, with this reflected our beliefs, as we value home learning and experiences as important and strive to extend home learning in our kindergarten environment.

We at Black Hill Kindergarten are committed to continual learning and improvement. We are constantly reflecting and evolving as we consider current practice such as the Early Years Learning Framework, current theoretical works and the concept of an Emergent Curriculum. We strive to maintain better working conditions and incentives which reflect the real value of our professional team. We are also committed to ongoing staff development and interpersonal development training. We believe all early childhood professionals need to be respected as individuals and as valuable members of our team and the whole profession.