

Philosophy Statement

PLAY, LAUGH, LOVE, LEARN, NURTURE, GROW, INSPIRE

The children, staff and their learning

At Lobethal Community Kindergarten we believe children learn best when they engage in a stimulating, challenging, high quality play-based learning programme. We believe children blossom in an environment where they have a sense of belonging and connectedness to their learning environment. This includes building strong, reciprocal relationships with children and their families, respecting their diversity and uniqueness. We value 'children's voice', ideas and initiative within our curriculum, promoting wellbeing, trust, respect and value life-long learning. We provide opportunities for children to learn at their own pace and take control of their learning, following their passions and making their own unique marks on the world. We support the development of learning dispositions such as curiosity, purposefulness, persistence, risk taking, cooperation, collaboration, resilience and problem solving.

Our curriculum is guided by- *The Early Years Learning Framework, *Observations of each child (both as an individual and within a group), *Children's interests, understandings and ideas.

We encourage children to be reflective in their learning, to validate current learning and to empower them for future learning. We have high expectations of children as learners. Our image of the child is that they are capable, competent, creative, curious learners who are full of potential.

All staff are involved in reviewing our curriculum daily, reflecting on emerging directions and recording evidence of learning. We aim to stimulate children's thinking and build upon their existing knowledge and skills to enrich learning. Staff have a strong commitment to life-long learning, keeping up-to-date with current research and engage in professional reflection and dialogue.

Lobethal Community Kindergarten has a strong commitment to the authentic and amazing learning that occurs in the outdoor learning environment and values children's strong connections with nature. We actively encourage curiosity, awe and wonderment, discovery, and engagement in their natural environment. Sustainable practices are embedded in the kindergarten operations and consistently promoted in the everyday program.



Honour
kindness
Choices
Forgiveness
Inspire
Resilience
Love
Blessed
Grateful
Passion
Stability
Trust
Self-worth
Strength
Together
Family
Dreams
Support
Memories
Activities
Original

Secure, respectful, reciprocal relationships and partnerships

Tolerance
Peace
Support
Caring
Life Hugs
Fun
Listening
Happiness
Time
Laughs
Laughter

We believe that secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships are essential to achieve quality outcomes for children. At Lobethal Community Kindergarten we recognise and value families as the children's first and most influential teachers.

We aim to create a welcoming environment where all children and families are respected and actively encouraged to work in partnership with educators, to ensure learning experiences are meaningful. We acknowledge and respect the different social and cultural backgrounds of families and we will actively encourage families to participate in our centre. We support families with information and workshops that will build their capacity and knowledge base, in relation to their parenting and beyond.

We aim to share information respectfully with families about their child's learning journey and collaboratively set goals during their kindergarten year. We will make each child's learning visible by collecting work samples, photos, observations and learning stories in their Learning Journey Book. We will provide a summary of learning at the end of each term and seek input and reflections from families.

We value the importance of effective transitions for children and their families and have developed a range of partnerships with local schools and childcare facilities. We aim to enable seamless and effective transitions for our families.

Our community

Our kindergarten plays a strong and important role within our community and so does the community within our Kindergarten. We are strongly interwoven. Our kindergarten provides a place where young children and their families come together, regardless of social, cultural or economic status. It is a place of connecting, learning and belonging for all. We aim to be sensitive to the changing needs of our community. We aim to network and participate in a range of community groups and partners, to share resources and develop a support of networks for families. Our community links, through our Governing Council, enable us to share information, reach goals and promote the value of quality public education within our community and to build an active community of engagement and enquiry.

We aim to use our Statement of Philosophy to guide all aspects of our decision making and practice at our centre. We believe it should be embedded and reflected in all that we do. We believe that a statement of the Centre's Philosophy changes as new insights are gained and practice evaluated. We will review our Philosophy statement annually, including input from children, families and educators.

The words included on the columns are provided by our families via our "Rock solid Values" Project 2014

Sources: Previous Lobethal Community Kindergarten Philosophy statements 2010 & 2013

Belonging, Being and Becoming-The early Years Learning Framework for Australia 2009

National Quality Framework 2011

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