



Our Vision

Our vision is a community where all children are valued, respected, encouraged and empowered to reach their full potential.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide high quality education and care in a safe, respectful, equitable and inclusive environment that builds a foundation for lifelong learning. We pride ourselves on meaningful relationships with children and families, strong community links, and connection to the natural world.

Our Philosophy

Gembrook Preschool is proud to be an independent, community run kindergarten service, managed by a committee of volunteer parents. Families and educators build strong partnerships to ensure the Centre is managed effectively through the process of collaboration and are committed to excellence in the provision of early childhood educational programs. We provide a child and family centred practice which strives to support all members of the Preschool community to experience physical, mental, emotional, and social wellbeing. Our service aims to reflect the values of the community in all its diversity, and to foster strong community connections for all service users.

Gembrook Preschool encourages and promotes inclusion, fairness, and respect for everyone, in a culturally safe setting. We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are Australia's first peoples, and that our kindergarten and community are living and learning on Wurundjeri and Bunurong lands. We embrace and support children of all skills and abilities, acknowledging children's personal, family, and cultural histories shape their learning for development. We view the whole child as an active citizen, capable of learning and contributing to their world.

Our programming is based on the significance of play. Play is the way in which children explore, discover, and learn about their world, each other, and themselves. Our goal is to provide an environment where children feel safe, secure, and supported, and feel a sense of belonging. We offer an educational program, both indoors and outdoors, which includes routines and is organised in ways which maximise opportunities for each child's learning. We promote each child's agency, enabling them to make choices and decisions. Educators believe in the importance of modelling appropriate behaviours and guiding children where necessary, as they assume responsibility for their choices, and develop respect for their communities and environment.

At Gembrook Preschool we believe in the specific importance of nature-based play. We are committed to providing ongoing opportunities for children to access unstructured outdoor environments and immerse themselves in nature through Bush Kinder programming. We feel strongly that nature play benefits children’s health and wellbeing, cognitive, social, and emotional development, and contributes to building resilience and creativity.

We believe every child has a fundamental right to high quality education and care. Both the national curriculum “Belonging, Being, Becoming ~ The Early years Learning Framework” (EYLF) and the Victorian curriculum framework “Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework” (VEYLDF) are integral to our programs. To support each individual child reaching their full potential an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting, reflecting, and evaluating, informs our programs. Educators observe and respond to children’s ideas and play and use integrated teaching approaches to scaffold and extend each child’s learning, which is recorded in Individual Learning Plans. We recognise and support the varied learning styles of individual children. Educators draw upon a range of research-based theories about early childhood to inform their professional practice. Reflective practice maximizes opportunities for children to grow both as individuals, and as a group.

We create a welcoming and inclusive environment in which all families are encouraged to participate and contribute to their child’s learning and developmental experience. We encourage collaboration between educators and families related to family values and goals for learning and invite open communication to support and monitor each child’s achievements and progress. We endeavour for all families to feel a sense of belonging within the Preschool community.

The Code of Ethics 2016 (Early Childhood Australia) is embedded in our professional practice and informs our relationships with the children, families, and each other. Our educators are dedicated Early Childhood Professionals who work together to create a supportive and positive kindergarten environment. Each staff member is recognised for their skills and ideas that they contribute to our kindergarten and wider community. The Preschool promotes professional enquiry and development which supports best practice. Educators collaborate with other organisations and service providers to enhance children’s learning and wellbeing.

At Gembrook Preschool we pride ourselves on providing a welcoming, caring, inclusive and supportive environment for our children, families, community, and educators based on the beliefs and principles outlined above. Together with our community we aspire to establish strong foundations for children’s lifelong learning.

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