

Bertram Hawker Kindergarten Philosophy Statement



The Bertram Hawker Kindergarten community provides a safe, supportive and relationship rich environment with a strong collaborative culture of 'all working and learning together'.

We foster curiosity, creativity, and successful lifelong learning through daily opportunities to play, imagine, investigate and collaborate. Our practices, program and environments support every child to be active participants in their learning and their community.

Our community and our practices are underpinned by the Aboriginal perspectives of caring for ourselves, caring for each other and caring for our world.

Caring for ourselves- a welcoming inclusive learning community

We provide a strong foundation for self-discovery, confidence, critical thinking, independence and participation in the broader community.

Our practices ensure children have a voice at our kindergarten. We value and encourage children to express and develop their thinking, theories and ideas with us and each other. We assist children to regulate their own behaviours, resolve conflicts and build relationships with their peers through play and everyday experiences.

We respect all children as capable and competent learners and build on their existing skills, interests and capabilities. Educators support learning by listening and responding to each child's needs and perspectives and by providing a stimulating environment that encourages children to express their ideas, play and learn. This approach fosters a genuine sense of belonging, acceptance and understanding.

Caring for each other-relationships and collaborative learning

We encourage kind, balanced and harmonious relationships. Our practices and environments are influenced by our philosophy of educators as researchers and a community of inquiry approach, which involves educators, children and families learning together, aligned to the principles and practices of the Early Years Learning Framework.

We acknowledge the importance of collaborative partnerships with families, who are our children's first and foremost educators. We are attuned to the unique circumstances of each child and family in a deeply respectful and responsive way. Our community is enriched by learning from the cultural diversity of the families at our kindergarten.

We support children to constructively express their thoughts and feelings and respect the feelings and perspectives of others. This approach encourages children to develop a strong sense of self-awareness, respect, optimism and confidence as collaborative learners. We use a restorative approach to support children to resolve difficulties that arise in relationships and learn to negotiate and empathise with others.

Caring for our world-sustainability

We encourage respect and appreciation for and sustainable use of the environment and seek to reduce our footprint on the world. This is underpinned by Aboriginal perspectives that value the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals. Sustainable practices are embedded in our daily life at kindergarten, through gardening, composting, caring for animals and recycling. Hands-on discovery and inquiry enable children to develop a meaningful connection and appreciation of our natural environment.