

DORIS BLACKBURN
PRESCHOOL
PHILOSOPHY

COMMUNITY

We are a community of learners that exists in the interest of **children's wellbeing and learning**.

We respect the rights of the individual and promote social justice, access and equity for families, recognizing that **diversity enriches** and builds strength.

We work as a team towards a common purpose- fostering positive, productive and constructive relationship with **all families**.

We will support children to develop understanding of and respect for **Australian Heritage, Australian Indigenous culture** with some emphasis on local Wurundjeri people.

We accept that we have a professional responsibility to be advocates of the children and their families in our Centre and in the wider community.

We communicate with parents and caregivers regarding their health and safety, development, care and education. We are available for primary counselling and referral, remaining sensitive to their needs.

We encourage the development of appropriate parenting skills and encourage them in their appreciation of their child's individuality.

FACILITATE LEARNING

Children learn through **play** and do so at their optimum level when provided with experiences and opportunities that **foster their own natural curiosity, enjoyment and confidence**.

We provide a warm, encouraging and rewarding environment that **encourages spontaneity, imagination, creativity, playfulness, inquiry, discussion & wisdom**.

CURRICULUM

Our program is based on an **emergent curriculum** and pedagogical teaching that aims to capture the child, the family and the educator's voice throughout our program. We encourage educators to **observe and listen to children** and gather inspiration to **enrich children's experiences**.



BEING, BELONGING, BECOMING

We promote and support respectful life-enhancing relationships so that all children will have a sense of **belonging**, will **feel safe** and know that they are **valued members** of the learning community. We encourage children to see themselves as valued, unique, capable and powerful human beings. We encourage children to **develop caring and respectful relationships** with adults and children – **making connections**, sharing ideas, problems, wonderings, skills and knowledge, being supported throughout.

A SAFE & STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT

As educators, we work to ensure that all children and their families feel **safe, secure and supported** at Doris Blackburn Preschool. We work to create relationships of **genuine respect and care**.

We provide environments that invite children to participate, to experience. We provide environments that **encourage children to cooperate, collaborate and build relationships** in playful ways – to build a positive **sense of wellbeing**.

We acknowledge that **children need time** to explore, to practice so we provide environments that are safe but **provide challenge**, that are interesting but not over stimulating or confusing; that provide times for quiet, for **working in harmony, in groups or individually**.

We will always ensure that the **safety and wellbeing** of all children in our care is our **utmost priority**.

As stated in our *Statement of Commitment to Child Safety* we have **zero tolerance** for child abuse. We have systems in place to **protect children** from abuse. We work actively to listen to and empower children. We are committed to **promoting a safe environment for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and a safe environment for children with a disability**.

HONORING DIVERSITY

We recognize that each family brings with them a **unique culture and perspective**.

We **welcome families** from all cultural and ethnic groups and accept that we are all different, unique. We will accommodate and encourage the **development of children without bias** regardless of race, gender, culture, religion, socioeconomic background, family structure or individual ability. We will always be sensitive in our relationships with children and **put the welfare of children above all else**.

We will become **more knowledgeable** about the specific ethnic groups represented in our communities. We encourage children to **respect each other** and will support them to learn **pro-social behaviours** through care and deference.



THE CHILD

Empowering children is the most basic foundation for our curriculum. We will trust their own momentum, **honour** their wonderings and questions; **encourage their interests, experiments and exploration**. We acknowledge that learning does not occur in a linear or orderly fashion but instead is segmented, re-visited and constructed over time and in a context and as a result of conversations with peers and adults.

We believe that children **learn by doing, listening and seeing, by experimenting, experiencing and interacting with materials, the environment**, each other and adults in a variety of socially and individually developmentally appropriate ways.

We will encourage the **development of independence**, self-reliance, competency, self-control, self-awareness, self-esteem and appreciation of others.

We will **encourage awareness and appreciation of the natural environment**. We believe in teaching our children about loving nature, respecting the environment and working together towards developing **sustainable practices** that are environmentally friendly.

OUR STAFF

We recognise and accept that we have a responsibility as **leaders in our workplace**.

We **value each member of our team** and their professionalism and dedication to Doris Blackburn Preschool.

We pride ourselves on ensuring that each member of our team is **well resourced** in both time, resources and materials to implement **highly educational programs** for your child.

As educators, we **work collaboratively** and affirm, challenge, support and **learn from one another** to **further develop our skills** and to improve our practice and **relationships**. We encourage further learning and education of educators. We believe that this is an integral part of our **commitment** to our educators and your family to ensure that your child receives the **best possible care and education**. Professional Development is conducted regularly for all team members.

