



# Flaxmill Preschool

## Philosophy Statement

Flaxmill Preschool strives to provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment for children to explore and engage in. Educators use a play based approach and are led by children's interests, inquiries and wonderings allowing their voice to be seen in our meaningful and flexible play spaces. We believe that every child has rights, regardless of race, gender, religion, culture, socio-economic status and ability. Children have the right to feel safe and protected, the right to be heard and the right to play, learn and develop. We have a committed approach to equality and inclusion where all children have access to a high quality education and care program.

As educators we all have a thorough understanding of the service requirements, including; the Early Years Learning Framework, National Quality Framework, Early Childhood of Australia Code of Ethics and the Literacy and Numeracy Indicators which guide our planning and curriculum decisions to support the learning outcomes of all children to ensure we are providing a high quality and consistent practice. Educator collaboration is vital as we share skills and knowledge to create a vibrant and dynamic working and learning environment. Educators constantly reflect critically on our practices and professional knowledge which informs our planning cycle, practice and implementation.

We acknowledge that parents and caregivers are children's most influential teachers and have the right to be informed, consulted, make choices and be present in their child's learning and development. All educators are committed to forming trusting relationships with families, valuing their beliefs, experiences, values, traditions and cultures. We believe educator's relationships with families have a significant impact on children's involvement and success in learning.

Our preschool is not only part of the Flaxmill School P-6 community but part of our local community and we strive to strengthen and maintain collaborative partnerships with a range of community organisations and services. Flaxmill Preschool acknowledges the Kaurna Aboriginal people as the first custodians of the Adelaide Region and their spiritual relationship with country. Australian Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islander cultures are also acknowledged, respected and valued. We aim to promote a greater understanding of diversity throughout the many ways of living, being and knowing immersing the children in our daily acknowledgement.







At Flaxmill Preschool we value children's education experience and want them to develop a lifelong love of learning. We provide an active and natural learning environment to support children as competent learners, capable decision makers, explorers, thinkers and risk-takers. We document and capture children's voices as valuable feedback to scaffold learning both individually and in group situations. We are nature play enthusiasts and this is embedded in our program and practice as we observe the benefits for children's wellbeing and development every day. Providing resources and natural materials promotes children's mind, body and spiritual connections and allows for a deeper appreciation for nature and our world.

Flaxmill Preschool educators are attuned to children's thoughts and feelings through meaningful and nurturing interactions. These support the development of children's wellbeing to generate trusting, respectful relationships and positive learning dispositions which include confidence, curiosity, independence, creativity, collaboration and kindness. We believe children's social and emotional development is vital in the early years, in particular their skills to get along, be confident, resilient, persistent and organised. The 'You Can Do It' social skills program is embedded in our curriculum to support this. Inclusion and diversity can be demonstrated as educators have embedded Auslan into many aspects of our curriculum and routine to encourage both verbal and non-verbal communication.

By providing children with knowledge about sustainable embedded practices including caring for living creatures and our environment, children become aware of their ecological footprint and their role in creating a sustainable future. We support healthy and active lifestyles as well as engage a play based curriculum and environment that promotes children's discovery and investigation of important literacy, numeracy and scientific concepts.

We believe that a philosophy statement evolves as new learning is gained and practice is continually reflected upon.

