

Henley Community Kindergarten

Philosophy Statement

Our days at Henley Community Kindergarten are like magical mystery tours, each one is different from the last.

At Henley Kindergarten we are committed to fulfilling every child's right to know about Australia's First Nations' histories, knowledge systems, culture and languages as we believe this is the key to advance Reconciliation. We ensure all children see themselves reflected in our environment which we know supports them continue to build a strong identity.

The children are our curriculum – we follow their lead, embrace their energy, share in their joy and celebrate their passion and enthusiasm for learning. They participate collaboratively in everyday routines, events, and experiences and have opportunities to make decisions as they learn to live interdependently. Our educators create environments in which children experience mutually enjoyable, caring and respectful relationships with people and the environment. We embrace the natural environment and the opportunities it provides for developing sustainable practices. We love mud, sticks and rocks and celebrate the open ended opportunities they provide for learning. We get messy!

Children's sense of wonder is nourished through honouring their play at Henley Kindergarten. Children have extended periods of uninterrupted play and opportunities to encounter and evaluate safe risks. Whole group and small group times are responsive to their needs either facilitating intentional teaching or providing more opportunities for high quality interactions to ensure everyone has a voice. Children are listened to, respected and valued in our learning environment.

The children's interactions with each other and educators are rewarding and fun and are built on a foundation of trust. Children navigate their way through each day sharing the way they see the world, their motivations and enthusiasm for learning. The children at Henley Community Kindergarten teach us as much as we teach them.

At Henley Community Kindergarten our educators are respectful and open minded supporting the curriculum to be dynamic and evolving. Educators support children to become active and responsible global citizens through authentic engagement in a safe, secure, high quality teaching and learning environment. This provides opportunities for them to feel empowered - building on their developing sense of agency – and fostering the belief that they can and will change the world!

Our educators strive to provide a homelike environment, they enthusiastically share a little bit of themselves and a sense of fun and playfulness which all support our children and their families transition to – for some – their first experience with 'formal education'. At Henley Community Kindergarten we respect diversity and reflect the values, practices and beliefs of our educators, children, families and the wider community. This is evident in our planning and our environment.

We are committed to working with families - the children's first educators. Through collecting information on enrolment, scheduled meetings, emails, See Saw posts and daily communications relationships are built and systems are put in place to support families to share in their child's learning journey at kindy. Families are also supported to build relationships with each other through events organised by the governing council, walks, excursions or even just staying for a cup of tea.

Our gates are always open - Henley Community Kindy belongs to all of us, educators, children, families – past and present.