

2023



Mt Barker Kindergarten Philosophy Statement

Mount Barker Kindergarten provides a safe, inclusive environment that is vibrant, flexible and responsive to each child's interest, needs and abilities as individuals and in groups. We provide high quality teaching and learning in line with the *National Quality Framework*, based on the Principles, Practices and Outcomes of the *Early Years Learning Framework*.

This philosophy reflects our vision and motto, **Play, Learn, Grow**:

Play - we implement a play-based curriculum, focused on positive social interactions and wellbeing. Play enables children to make independent choices using open-ended resources, enhancing individual development.

Learn - our emergent curriculum is responsive to children's learning ideas, utilising teachable moments and building upon children's interests and existing understandings. We respect each child's individual learning style in tandem with developmental appropriateness.

Grow - we provide learning opportunities that challenge and engage children, supporting deeper thinking and problem solving as they understand and make sense of the world around them.

Our educators work in partnership with families, recognising and valuing their place as children's first educators. We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and their culture, particularly the Peramangk People. We increasingly build partnerships with our extended community (including parents, caregivers, children, local businesses, service providers, child care centres and children's groups).

This philosophy defines our values of **Trust** and **Respect**, **Nurturing** and **Caring**, **Responsibility** and **Empowerment**, which are the foundation of quality early childhood education:

Trust and **Respect** - children gain increasing confidence to further develop their own identity while exploring and taking considered learning risks.

Nurturing and **Caring** - children learn about empathy and consideration for others. They develop a sense of what is fair, begin to see alternate points of view, and act in respectful and inclusive ways.

Responsibility and **Empowerment** - children strengthen their ability to initiate their own interactions and accept some responsibility for themselves, their actions and their environments.

As educators, we are committed to ongoing critical reflection that improves our everyday practice, thereby continuing to provide quality care and education. Our team values are:

open communication; being supportive; shared commitment in working towards common goals; and an overarching positive attitude to work and life-long learning.