



# Flaxmill Preschool Philosophy Statement

We believe that every child has rights, regardless of race, colour, gender, religion, culture, socio-economic status and ability. The right to feel safe and protected, the right to be heard and the right to play, learn and develop is important for all children. We have a committed approach to equality and inclusion where all children have access to a high quality program and care. We acknowledge children belong first to their family, cultural group, neighbourhood and wider community. Parents and caregivers are children's first and most influential teachers, we believe it is paramount that meaningful relationships and partnerships are established between families, educators and the community, creating the opportunity for all to feel valued, respected and supported. Parents and families have the right to be informed, consulted, make choices and be acknowledged in their child's learning and development. All educators have a strong commitment to valuing families' beliefs, experiences, values, traditions and cultures. Flaxmill Preschool acknowledges the Kurna Aboriginal people as the first custodians of the Adelaide Region and their spiritual relationship with the country. We aim to promote greater understanding of diversity throughout the many ways of living, being and knowing. Our preschool is not only part of Flaxmill School P-7 but part of the local community and our values include friendship, honesty, responsibility, respect and learning.

The relationships educators develop with children and families have a significant effect on children's involvement and success in learning. Educators who are attuned to children's thoughts and feelings through nurturing interactions, support the development of the children's wellbeing to generate positive learning dispositions and trusting, respectful relationships. Educators constantly reflect critically on our practices and professional knowledge which informs our planning cycle, practice and implementation. Collaboration is vital as educators share skills, knowledge and understanding to create a vibrant, dynamic working environment.





By documenting and capturing children's voices we are valuing and scaffolding their learning, individually and in group settings. At Flaxmill Preschool we value children's education experience and want them to develop a lifelong love of learning. Children are engaged participants in their learning and are capable decision makers, explorers, thinkers, risk-takers and competent learners and we will provide an active and natural learning environment to support this. 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 a deeper appreciation for nature and the world around them. 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 we encourage children to be involved using the 'garden to table' approach embedding healthy habits early in life. Our active learning environments encourage children to access a variety of play based learning experiences as they express their feelings, engage in explorations, wonder, use their imagination and experiment. Providing a stimulating environment with an emphasis on natural loose parts helps to support children's wellbeing, creativity, independence, engagement in learning and assess their appetite for risk. The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), Indicators of Preschool Numeracy and Literacy are used to guide planning and curriculum decisions to support the learning outcomes for all children. By providing STEM learning opportunities, children develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

