



## Hallett Cove Karrara Kindergarten- Our Kindergarten Philosophy

We believe in and foster:

- **Positive relationships between all that are underpinned by respect and care.**
- **A sense of belonging and pride in our community and ourselves as individuals.**
- **A desire to achieve excellence now and in the future for children, staff and the Kindergarten.**
- **A place where fun and learning meet so children develop a love of learning through meaningful experiences.**

### **Positive relationships between all that are underpinned by respect and care.**

Positive relationships that are open, honest and respectful are built over time and depend on open communication between children, adults and teachers.

Teachers demonstrate this by....

- Actively seeking out opportunities to talk with children and their parents about their child, their learning and their family through incidental conversations, informal and formal meetings, community events and during learning experiences.
- Take time to consider each child's well-being, individual needs, interests and family context and plan for how that can be included, celebrated and supported within the Kindergarten group.
- Actively seeking out opportunities to talk to parents about their child.
- Feeding back to parents regularly about children's learning and progress towards shared goals. Providing information and support to families, particularly during times of change or transition.

Children demonstrate this by...

- Developing an understanding of acceptable social behaviour that respects the rights of everyone to be safe and happy.
- Becoming an active member of the group and striving to be fair and kind in their interactions with others.
- Developing an appreciation and respect for diversity.
- Developing strong listening skills alongside the ability to have an opinion and be listened to.

Parents show this by...

- Sharing information about themselves and their child as they enter the Kindergarten community and during their time here.
- Being interested in their child's learning, celebrating their achievements and supporting learning at home.
- Being open and honest about their needs and engage in constructive dialogue with the Kindergarten staff.

### **A sense of belonging and pride in our community and ourselves as individuals.**

Kindergartens are diverse places where every teacher, child and family member has something to offer and something to learn. By welcoming new ideas, celebrating our achievements and connecting with the wider community we can enrich individuals and the community as a whole.

Teachers demonstrate this by....

- Providing group learning experiences that all children can relate to and contribute to. These experiences are built on over time to create a shared history in the Kindergarten. Individual contributions to the project are celebrated alongside the group's efforts.
- Inviting families into the Kindergarten to share in the learning through daily events, projects and celebrations.
- Highlighting the role parents play as partners in learning and valuing their strengths and contributions to our community.
- Supporting our Playgroup and children's transition into full time Kindergarten and then to school.

Children show this by...

- Developing an increasing awareness of themselves as individual learners and as members of the Karrara community. Children recognise their responsibility to take ownership of their learning environments, take care of the land and ensure all community members feel a sense of belonging at the Kindergarten.
- Recognising their own achievements and those of their peers.
- Being actively involved in Kindergarten experiences within the local community.

Parents contribute to this by...

- Becoming involved in the Kindergarten in whatever way they can; sharing skills, ideas and plans for the future.
- Learning about the Kindergartens priorities and plans.
- Supporting the Kindergarten through events, maintenance of the Kindergarten and actively promoting the Kindergarten in the wider community.
- Respecting and valuing the contributions of other members of the community.

# Hallett Cove Karrara Kindergarten- Our Kindergarten Philosophy



## We believe in and foster:

### **A desire to achieve excellence now and in the future for all children, staff and the Kindergarten.**

Planning for learning and development involves having a clear understanding of where we are now, where we want to be and having high expectations for all children and their learning. Children, and their teachers, need to be able to embrace change and be challenged in their learning so they are able to meet the demands of a changing world.

Teachers demonstrate this by....

- Creating a learning environment which is stimulating, well resourced, organised and structured so that it provides for learning at different levels and in a variety of ways to meet the needs of a diverse group of children.
- Planning and assessing individual children's learning carefully, and in consultation with parents, set clear goals for support and extension.
- Reflecting on their own practice and regularly seeking to improve our skills as educators, in conjunction with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and Reflect, Respect, Relate documents.
- Having a positive attitude to trying new approaches in teaching and seek to challenge all children in their learning.

Children show this by...

- Developing a range of life skills, learning skills and dispositions which support them to be independent learners; including emotional resilience, social competence, self-motivation, independence, persistence and resourcefulness.
- Having a voice in the curriculum so their ideas are fostered and developed in ways which are meaningful to them and which lead to more complex learning.
- Having the opportunity to take considered risks and learn from their mistakes.

Parents demonstrate this by...

- Supporting children's attempts, providing guidance for future learning and by encouraging them to try new things within the Kindergarten.
- Communicating openly with staff about children's needs and interests.
- Collaborating with staff in planning for the future; for their child and the whole Kindergarten.

### **A place where fun and learning meet so children develop a love of learning through meaningful experiences.**

Children are strongly motivated to learn when their experiences are enjoyable and educators make them feel safe, supported and valued. Playing is how children make meaning in Kindergarten. The combination of a play-based learning environment and an inquiry approach to learning supports both independent learning, social learning and the ability to go deeper into a relevant topic.

Teachers demonstrate this by....

- Bringing a sense of humour, wonder and genuine interest in children and learning.
- Providing space, time, resources and direction for play so that children can experiment, master and extend personal and group interests.
- Creating an environment which includes both adult and child initiated learning that reflects children's personal lives and broadens their understanding of the world.
- Explicitly describing the learning the children are achieving as they play so they see their achievements.

Children show this by...

- Being happy to come to Kindergarten and are willing to try new experiences just beyond their current ability.
- Asking questions to make connections between new learning and past knowledge.
- Using their imagination and creativity to add to experiences, in collaboration with more experienced peers and adults.

Parents demonstrate this by...

- Feeling welcomed and comfortable to spend time in the Kindergarten with their child.
- Encouraging their child to try new experiences and celebrate their successes.
- Developing an understanding of the learning that happens in Kindergarten and how it develops over time.
- See their cultures reflected positively in the Kindergarten and have an opportunity to contribute to this.

This philosophy has been developed with input from the Parents, Children and Educators from Hallett Cove Karrara Kindergarten and reflects views held by the community over many years and our families' beliefs.