

Stirling District Kindergarten Philosophy Statement

Our community's values, identified by parents and educators, are Courage, Respect, Inclusivity, Curiosity and Kindness

The children were also asked what made our kindy special, and their answers are interpreted through our values.

Courage

As educators, we provide a safe and interesting environment for exploration while challenging children to stretch their thinking and take learning risks. We provide new experiences within both structured and unstructured play times, including nature play. We teach children about Executive Function and nurture positive dispositions toward learning.

Parent voice: we encourage children to separate with confidence, to have a go and to be responsible independent learners.

Child voice "you can swing really high." "Even if you are scared of talking to people, say something back to them." "If you hear something and don't know what it is, don't panic." "Try fixing it yourself."

Respect

We endeavour to be approachable and available, open and transparent in our work. We respect parents as children's first educators and work in partnership to progress children's learning. We draw links between play and learning in our conversations and pedagogical documentation. We provide positive feedback to parents and children about learning. We respect child voice in developing our curriculum. We teach Ngaitalya (respect) for Kaurua culture. We have a strong emphasis on respecting nature through sustainable practices. We foster a culture of strong relationships, a respectful and cohesive team, encouraging reflective professional learning.

Parent voice: we listen to our children. We communicate respectfully with staff about learning intentions.

Child voice "Don't use all the water". "Save water for the next day." "We help the environment." "We water plants." "We help people." "Look after your toys very well." "Be kind, don't hurt." "Be nice."

Inclusivity

We aim to provide a welcoming, nurturing and secure environment for all. We endeavour to build a sense of belonging, connecting kindy with home and the wider community. We understand that each child is an individual with rights, and their own unique family life, interests, strengths, learning goals and culture. This is reflected in the way we approach our relationships and teaching. We value diversity and recognise that all of our staff members are passionate, dynamic and professional early childhood educators.

Parent voice: we take an active interest in our children's learning, making connections between home and kindy.

Child voice: "We play with friends every day." "We catch up with everybody." "If people don't have anyone to play with, you can play with them." "We work together and you write both of your names." "Share with each other."

Curiosity

All our educators engage children in deep inquiry based learning based on children's wonderings and interests. We vary experiences and provide challenges, incorporating child voice, loose parts and nature play. We explore our local environment and community.

Parent voice: We will talk with children and ask questions to support the learning at kindy. We can share our family skills and experiences by getting involved in the kindy program.

Child voice: "I had the idea of this." "I wonder..."

Kindness

We take time to understand and to nurture each child. We model and celebrate acts of kindness and collaboration. We teach reconciliation skills so that children independently and successfully negotiate and share.

Parent voice: We take time to check in on our children's emotions, understand their feelings and help them express these appropriately. Child voice: "We have animals to care for...we hold chicks." "Be kind." "We show people around kindly." "We are friendly." "Be nice and soft with friends." "Walk slowly and carefully" "Help people, if they are hurt, look after them"