

Service statement of philosophy

At Surrey Downs Kindergarten & Occasional Care we aim to provide an environment that maximises all children's individual development. We believe all children can be successful learners and should be given opportunities to develop important lifelong skills including:

- Confidence
- Resilience
- Persistence
- Organisation
- Positive relationships
- Embrace diversity and inclusivity
- Environmental awareness
- A delight for learning – engaged, inquisitive thinkers
- Physical and emotional wellbeing

By providing a play based curriculum using the Early Years Learning Framework we strive to give children the opportunity to be active & interactive, communicate, experiment, imagine, create, problem solve, role play, practice and learn together. As they explore familiar & new experiences around them in a safe and nurturing environment we aim to give them empowerment and agency over their learning. We foster opportunities for feelings of ownership, success, optimism, motivation and build on children's prior knowledge to support, challenge and extend their learning. We respond to children in both a spontaneous and intentional way to provide an optimum level of care and education. Our educators are dedicated and committed to ongoing learning and reflective practice. We use the Reflect, Respect, Relate assessment tool to reflect on children's level of involvement and the quality of our program and educators. We follow a process of observing, planning, implementing and evaluating that leads to rich learning outcomes. The cyclic method we follow uses incorporates children's thinking, interests and prior knowledge into the planning cycle that enables us to provide authentic learning opportunities that are linked to relevant observations.

At Surrey Downs Kindergarten and Occasional care we have a dynamic outdoor *play* space which includes *natural* features and invites open-ended interactions, spontaneity, risk-taking, exploration, discovery and connection with nature. We aim to foster an appreciation of the natural environment, develop environmental awareness and provide a platform for ongoing environmental education. The children are given the opportunities to take an active role in caring for their environment and to contribute to a sustainable future. Our daily routine is calm and predictable, it provides opportunities for long periods of uninterrupted play both inside and out to support time for play to develop. We promote health and wellbeing benefits through healthy eating programs, integration of music and movement and opportunities for extensive outside play to practice and master emerging physical skills while gaining physical exercise.

Building trusting and respectful relationships between the Kindergarten educators, children, their families and the community underpins all that we do and we aim to create an environment where we are partners in children's learning. We work in conjunction with the Tea Tree Gully partnership, we are part of the Surrey Downs Community village that share common goals and we incorporate the values of Surrey Downs Primary School 'Valuing success and maximising potential'. We work together with the community to achieve our vision 'To build a larger community education service where families feel valued and children achieve success in all areas of their learning.'