

Our Philosophy

St. Peters Kindergarten

At St Peter's Kindergarten, our objective is to provide a welcoming and nurturing environment in which children can play and learn. We aim to support children in achieving the best possible learning outcomes, by responding to their individual needs in collaboration with their families and communities. The following statements summarise our values, ideals and beliefs around early childhood education and development.

Children

- Every child is unique, and has different strengths, ideas and ways of thinking and being
- Children are naturally motivated to learn through play and exploration
- Children are capable, resourceful and can actively contribute to their learning
- Children can communicate and share their ideas and thinking, and make choices about matters which affect them and others
- Emotional and physical wellbeing is important to a child's sense of security
- Children have a right to feel safe and supported
- Confidence and self-esteem underpin a child's ability to feel safe
- Children have a right to feel respected, and to show respect for others
- Children have a right to have a sense of belonging

Families

- We respect parents and families as the first teachers of their children
- We respect the beliefs of families, and seek to incorporate these in children's early education
- We seek to work collaboratively with families in matters which affect their child
- We aim to develop respectful relationships with families
- We engage families in their child's learning at kindergarten, and encourage families to be involved
- We actively promote connections and friendships with other families in our kindergarten community

The Learning Environment

- We provide a welcoming, safe, fun and inclusive environment in which children can engage in play, both indoors and outdoors to foster a love of learning
- We provide an environment which is accessible for children of all abilities
- We provide access to resources to promote self-directed play choices, as well as providing resources and provocations to extend play ideas
- We provide both processed and natural materials to promote varied engagement in play and learning
- We encourage and promote healthy eating choices and exercise in our daily routine to support healthy growth and development

Educators & Educational Programming

- Children learn through play experiences, both independent and collaborative

- We enhance children’s learning and development by incorporating their knowledge, strengths, ideas, culture, abilities and interests
- We encourage children to explore, experience, create, imagine, experiment and problem solve
- We engage children in creative activities such as music, dance, drama, arts and construction which promotes self-expression and communication
- We use strategies of intentional teaching, scaffolding and responsiveness to optimise learning
- Children are offered open ended experiences, allowing teachers to be flexible and responsive to individual learning styles and interests
- We continuously assess children’s learning, planning and reflecting on individual outcomes, to bring out the best in the individual child, and to extend their learning
- Literacy and numeracy is promoted in all areas of learning
- We promote connections and friendships with other children and families, to support growth and development both in the kinder, and the broader community
- We aim to inspire children to develop a love for learning
- We acknowledge that educators have different strengths, experiences, knowledge, understandings and values, and we support one another in sharing those for the benefit of all children and families
- We support individual and collective professional growth
- We support educators in engaging in ongoing professional development, to continuously improve educational programs and practice
- We seek to foster a love of learning
- We recognise the significance of incorporating Aboriginal culture and perspectives in children’s learning
- We maintain a mutually supportive relationship with the St Peter’s Church community
- We regularly engage with the community in projects, excursions and incursions