

## **Appin Park Kindergarten offers a 4 year old program**

Our Philosophy guides our everyday practice. It reflects what we as a centre believe and what implications this has for what we do.

Our Philosophy is underpinned by the documents Belonging, Being and Becoming, The National Quality Framework, The Victorian Early Years Learning Framework and The National Quality Standards. (These documents are available for families and staff to read.)

We believe that warm and trusting relationships allow the children to feel safe and secure.

Feeling safe and secure allows children to feel they belong and are a part of our community. Feeling safe and secure allows children to take risks to freely explore their environment. It also allows children to build strong and positive relationships with other children and the adults at Kinder. We acknowledge that it takes time and thought to develop positive and respectful relationships with the children and their families. We acknowledge that it is important that each child's voice is listened to and treated with respect.

We believe that families are the children's first and most important educators and therefore their knowledge is sought and valued.

Families are encouraged to share their values, experiences and beliefs with their child's educators. We respect the unique culture of each family involved with our community. We respect their race, creed and socio economic status. Staff members work collaboratively with families, recognizing them as equal partners in supporting their child's learning and development. Families are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of our centre. We believe that building strong links and partnerships between families and our Kinder has great benefits for all involved.

We believe it is important to continually reflect on our work and relationships with the children, families and staff at our centre.

Reflecting on what we do and why is an important part of our practice. We believe that it is through our reflections that we are able to provide the best possible learning outcomes for the children. Reflections occur informally i.e. discussions during or at the end of the day or more formally e.g. during staff / committee meetings and in our record keeping. We acknowledge that Professional Development provides the opportunity for us to be informed and reflect on our practices with the children, families and each other.

We believe that children learn best through play.

Current research indicates that the most successful way for children to learn is through a play based, educator facilitated programs. We believe our program should reflect a variety of tactile, visual and auditory experiences for the children. We believe our experiences should encourage the children to interact with their environment and others and to ask questions and explore other possibilities. We believe experiences should be

explored by the children and staff to encourage motor skills, independence, language, communication, emotional wellbeing and independent thought processes.

We value the experience and ideas of the educators at our Kindergarten.

We believe that all staff members have experiences and knowledge that will enrich our program and enhance interactions with the children. We believe that through open communication and positive relationships educators will work together as a team. We believe that it is important that strong positive relationships are reflected in our interactions with the children and families at our centre.

*We welcome feedback, ideas, discussion and input so that our Philosophy meets the needs and beliefs of all involved with Appin Park Kindergarten.*