



## Lyrebird preschool Philosophy

The child, the family, the educators and the community are integral parts of the Lyrebird Preschool Community. We value, encourage and respect each individual who belongs to this community and understand that every child, family and educator bring their own culture, knowledge and experience to share with our community.

At Lyrebird preschool we acknowledge the original custodians of this land, the Dharawal people and their language and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the community. We believe our role is to engage the Dharawal people in a collaborative authentic partnership with our preschool.

Our philosophy has been inspired and guided by our knowledge of current research, *The Early Childhood Association Code of Ethics*, *The National Quality Standards* and *The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia - Belonging, Being and Becoming 2009*



## In relation to the children we believe:

- Children are capable and competent learners and value children's interest and perspectives in our planning and teaching.
- In strengthening resilience, critical thinking and informed risk taking.
- Children have a right to a rich play based learning environment.
- Everyone has a right to a warm and nurturing environment that promotes trusting relationships .
- Every child is a unique and valued individual and that all children including those with additional needs have the right to access a quality early childhood education.



## **In relation to families and the wider community we believe:**

- That families are the child's first and most important teacher and respect their right to make decisions about their child.
- In working in partnership with families to develop genuine relationships that allow for open and honest communication.
- In the importance of connecting and establishing strong connections within our community to support our families e.g. support agencies, schools, health services.
- Families provide the bridge between the preschool and home by sharing information, unique skills, cultural values and a sense of belonging for the child to his/her learning community.
- Part of this community, we have a responsibility to our children and families to establish and maintain a sense of belonging and connection to the land and to our shared Aboriginal history and culture, to actively embrace reconciliation and spread this message.



## In relation to our educators we believe:

- The diversity and strengths of individuals create the richness of our team.
- Educators are co learners with children, families and community and colleagues.
- Preschool acknowledges that qualified and committed educators are a core factor in the quality of the service.
- We encourage and support educators to continually seek ways to build their professional knowledge.
- The educators at lyrebird preschool display warm nurturing and respectful relationships, communicate openly and honestly and are influential in helping the children and families feel a sense of belonging.
- In supporting our educators personal wellness and wellbeing that enables them to be happy, resilient, confident and optimistic within their work environment.



## **In relation to the learning environment:**

- We aim to link our preschool program with the diversity of our world by encouraging acceptance of others, supporting social inclusion, and taking advantage of the rich learning opportunities that diversity and difference bring.
- We believe in embracing education for sustainability and social justice into daily practise.
- We Place high importance on play outdoors and spending time with nature deepening a respect and a positive attitude towards the environment.
- We believe a sense of wonder, belonging to and love of the land, nature and animals are critical for young children to develop lifelong respectful, positive and proactive attitudes to our environment and to ensure our sustainable future.
- We believe in creating welcoming learning environments which reflect and enrich the lives and identities of children and families participating in the setting.
- We believe that learning spaces should be responsive to the interests and abilities of each child and invite open ended interactions and opportunities for exploration and discovery.

