

Para Vista Preschool Statement of Philosophy

Welcome to Para Vista Preschool! We believe in creating a warm and welcoming environment where every child can thrive. Para Vista Preschool is a place of learning for all. We come together to connect, learn and grow every day on the traditional lands of the Kurna people and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.

Children: We believe that children are competent and capable and learn best through a play based curriculum. Each child comes to us with a wealth of knowledge, experience, ideas, interests, and skills. Our educators plan developmentally appropriate learning opportunities and reflect on the skills the children show while engaging in such activities. Play is the foundation for children's learning. We plan and implement a preschool program that is strength based, supporting children's individual interests and laying the foundations for life-long learning. Our program supports and stimulates children's growth in the development of:

- ★ A strong sense of their identity
- ★ Connections with their world
- ★ A strong sense of wellbeing
- ★ Confidence and involvement in their learning
- ★ Effective communication skills (Early Years Learning Framework V2)

Families: Families are valued as children's first teachers and partners in supporting children's growth and development. Educators recognise, respect, and embrace the family context for each child and promote ongoing understanding about their culture, and stories. We place importance on developing trusting open relationships and communication between home and the preschool. We welcome and invite families to share and contribute to all aspects of the preschool, as children grow and learn best within the context of their family and community.

Educators We foster children's curiosity, independence and confidence by providing open-ended experiences and following the lead of children through a balance of child initiated play and intentional teaching. We provide meaningful opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play, particularly due to the growing lack of outdoor play in natural places for children and sustainable practices are supported in various ways throughout the preschool program. Educators are committed to ongoing professional learning and engage in critical reflection that informs decision making and continuous improvement.

Community: We build effective partnerships and network with various government and non-government organisations to share resources and support our community. As a school-based preschool, there is strong collaboration and continuity of learning between the school and preschool. Preschool children, staff and families regularly participate in whole site events, programs and practices. We uphold the Para Vista Primary School values of Respect, Honesty and Courage and children have the benefit of sharing the school environment, facilities, and resources. This enhances the preschool program and supports children's wellbeing as they transition to school.

Leadership: Para Vista Preschool is lead by the school Principal with key decisions about the school and preschool decided on by a voluntary parent Governing Council in conjunction with guidelines set by the Department for Education.