



Bland Shire Preschool Philosophy

Our Preschool is a Council run service; we cater for children aged three to five years in West Wyalong and surrounding villages of the Bland Shire.

Program and Practice:

- We aspire children to learn through collaboration and communication with other children; and give them opportunities to practice and consolidate their skills in all learning.
- We aspire to implement a child centred, educational and play based program based upon the Learning Outcomes, Principles and Practices outlined in the Early Years Learning Framework of Australia – Belonging, Being and Becoming and Standards from the National Quality Framework.
- We aim to celebrate diversity within our service and play a role in fostering and developing an understanding of inclusion.
- We strive to implement a flexible program including experiences and routines that are responsive and contribute to each child's current knowledge, idea, culture, abilities and interest. This is drawn from a variety of methods including but not limited to learning stories and reflections.
- We embrace magical moments throughout the day, allowing children and educators to embrace spontaneous learning.
- We endeavour to include sustainable practices in our daily programs and daily routines whilst encouraging and educating children in sustainable practices.

Educators and Staff:

- We employ qualified and experienced staff whom are committed to working for the best interest of children and families whilst providing staff with ongoing professional development.
- We aim for secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships, promoting the educators and child's sense of belonging and wellbeing.
- We believe in nurturing an environment of teamwork, where all staff are valued and their contribution is acknowledged.

Children:

- We endeavour to value the individual needs of all children within the context of their family, cultural group and their community.
- We believe children have a right to play and be active participants in their own learning, whilst contributing to the program by following their interests; therefore enhancing their learning disposition and enabling them to develop relationships.
- We encourage children to develop confidence and positive self esteem through creating a sense of belonging in which each child is acknowledged as a unique and special individual.
- We believe that in order for children to actively engage in the program they need to feel like they belong.

Physical Environment:

- We believe in using both the indoor and outdoor environments to encourage children to play, observe, engage their senses, explore, investigate, imagine, make choices and problem solve.
- We encourage children to play and learn through collaboration and communication with other children and adults and through interacting with the environment.
- We provide a rich and nurturing environment that has the potential to stimulate imagination, promote creativity and enhance aesthetic development.

Families and Community:

- We aim to have trust, respect, collaboration and open communication between families and staff. We believe this forms the basis for strong partnerships.
- We encourage families to engage in meaningful participation within the program, forming a caring community between families, children and educators is integral to a high quality program.
- We promote open and constructive communication with families. This includes formal and informal discussions, child portfolios, day books, social media and newsletters.
- We strive to be a centre of excellence for early childhood education within our community.
- We are advocates for our profession; therefore it is important to share our knowledge and experience within the local community through hosting students, volunteers and information sessions.
- We believe in the use of local community expertise to enrich the children's learning and awareness of the local community for the education and development of all children.
- We promote the importance of nurturing relationships with community organisations, council, local schools and other early childhood professionals.
- We are aware the needs of children, families, staff and the community are constantly changing. Ongoing evaluation is essential to create a service that is responsive to those needs.
- We work in collaboration with the community. Believing in the importance of promoting a sense of community, allowing children to connect with and contribute to their world.

*From this philosophy, policies have been developed, which provide guidelines for the operation of Bland Preschool. Policy review and development is ongoing.
Reviewed February 2017*