

Karcultaby School Based Preschool Philosophy

Acknowledgement to Country

Here is the land. Here is the sky. Here are my friends, and here am I. We thank the Nawu and Banggarla people for the land on which we learn and play. Hands up, hands down. We're on Nawu and Banggarla ground.

Our Place

Karcultaby School Based Preschool aims to create secure, trusting, and respectful partnerships between home and preschool. We value family voice and use their contributions to identify and build on each child's strengths.

Karcultaby School Based Preschool offers a play-based learning environment. This enhances children's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills and capabilities. We provide an environment that is flexible, child-centred and encourages group and individual learning.

Our values

We value

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Perseverance

Our Beliefs

We believe:

Our children are curious, open and able to be in the moment. They bring knowledge and interests from their home and community life. They are connected, supportive, caring and empathic. Every child is capable and competent and has rich potential.

That families are children's first and most enduring educators. They know their children and can advocate for them. Building partnerships with families through open communication and trusting each other, supports children's learning, development and wellbeing.

Children learn when they are able to engage with and draw on their thoughts, ideas and questions and through hands on experiences. They need to initiate and drive their own learning, both individually and collaboratively, as they construct understandings of the world. They thrive when they have opportunities to think critically, question, explore, be intentional and creative.

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A welcoming, inclusive and engaging environment supports children's learning. Children engage with curiosity and creativity within the learning environment and have both rights and responsibilities to each other and the natural world. Opportunities to use open ended materials, with the ability to revisit and go deeper with inquiry provokes thinking and learning. An environment that promotes sustained shared thinking and conversation builds children's communication and meaning making.

Our Commitments

We will base our planning on individual interests, strengths and funds of knowledge in order to support each child to engage fully through play. We will actively seek information and ideas from families to use as a basis for intentional and responsive teaching.

We will strive to build authentic and meaningful relationships with families, where they feel welcome and encouraged to engage in their children's learning and development.

We will ensure that children develop skills and dispositions to support exploration of their thoughts, theories and learning, both individually and collaboratively. Provision of opportunities for sustained shared thinking, intentional purposeful play and communication will be embedded in our ongoing practice.

We will create and provide open ended and engaging learning environments that are accessible for children so they can initiate and follow their inquiries and learning. We will support children's understanding of rights, responsibilities and sustainability. Our learning spaces will be responsive to the culture and context of children's family and the wider community.

Our intentions

In 2024/2025 we will:

- Investigate ways to explore the ideas behind children's interests to plan intentionally for the group and for individuals
- Create a welcoming environment for families and plan for and implement face to face celebrations for families of children's learning twice a year
- Build capacity and confidence of educators to extend sustained shared thinking throughout the program and across the year.
- Reflect and gather data on the responsiveness of the learning environment to children's culture and context.