

Our Philosophy

We acknowledge that the Lower Bucca Community Preschool stands on the land of the Gumbaynggirr people, which remains culturally significant to them, and we pay our respects to the elders past and present.

Play is at the heart of Lower Bucca Community Preschool's philosophy. The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) for Australia recognises that there are many opportunities for learning within the context of play. At Lower Bucca we aim to provide an exciting, yet safe and nurturing environment where each child can explore, discover and appreciate the world around them through play. We believe that play provides opportunities to relax, have fun, experience and express joy. Through play, children are able to explore social relationships, contribute ideas and take on the ideas of others.

Lower Bucca's natural bush setting provides unique opportunities for play where children can interact with the outdoor world, learning to balance risk with challenge, further develop their innate confidence and discover their full potential. Through outdoor exploration and tending our organic food and flower gardens, we also aim to foster a deep connection with nature, enabling children to learn about, understand, respect and care for the environment and explore the principles of ecological sustainability in their daily lives. These opportunities provide the children with the knowledge to take an increasing responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

Our experienced and passionate staff provide experiences which support children to form connections, investigate, create, imagine, construct and solve problems. We aim to maintain a balance between experiences which are initiated by the children and those which are supported or facilitated by thoughtful and intentional teaching.

We focus on a child's "being" as well as a child's "becoming", by recognising the here and now as well as future development and changes. Our program aims to prepare children for a positive and smooth transition to school, primarily through emotional and social readiness. We also look for opportunities to engage in text and meaning, language rhyming, ordering, counting, matching and spatial awareness in a natural play based context.

At Lower Bucca Community Preschool, we acknowledge and respect the uniqueness of each child, their family, culture, language, beliefs and customs. We understand that children learn through interactions with their family and extended community and we value the diversity of knowledge and experiences they bring with them to our preschool. We strive to ensure that our program is accessible and meaningful for all children, and that it includes and supports children and families with diverse abilities and alternative perspectives. We extend this attitude of inclusion, respect and acceptance to family members, visitors, students, and preschool staff members.

We are passionate about fostering a feeling of "belonging", at preschool and within the broader community, which we believe helps each child be their best and become their best, and enables them to build and sustain meaningful relationships. We also acknowledge that the lower Bucca Preschool has played a significant role in the Bucca community's history and we encourage the involvement of the local community to continue this connection.

As educators we are committed to growing in understanding with each passing year, and will never take our knowledge or experience for granted. We respect that in our ever-changing world, we need to be open to change in ourselves and our methods. This commitment allows us to be creative and innovative in the ways we teach our children to love, grow, learn and appreciate that life is a gift.

We see our philosophy as a living document, continually evolving in light of new research, the ideas of new team members and input from families.