

OUR PHILOSOPHY



As a Montessori Preschool, The Children's House adheres to Montessori philosophy and teaching methods, which is based upon 'following the child'. We recognize that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been nurturing and teaching children on this land for thousands of years and acknowledge their traditional ways of being and caring for children. We also acknowledge the holistic, integrated and interconnected approaches of the EYLF.

We believe that children:

- are unique and valued individuals who develop in different areas at different rates and with different capacities.
- should be encouraged and supported in the pursuit of their learning interests and abilities.
- develop positive self-esteem by having the opportunity to experience and accept new challenges, in a safe and encouraging environment.
- have an innate capacity for learning and desire to learn.
- deserve to feel safe, respected, included and empowered.

As teachers our aims are:

- To enhance each child's strength, competencies and self-esteem.
- To protect children's safety, wellbeing, dignity and privacy.
- To facilitate the development of the whole child with the integration of the intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social aspects of life.
- To help children learn to interact effectively, and in doing so learn to balance their own rights, needs and feelings with those of others.
- To develop the independence and adaptability of the child we see education as an aid to life and preparation for it.
- To maintain a safe, healthy and nurturing environment that will enhance our children's autonomy, initiative and self-worth.
- To provide a learning environment that is active, experimental, individually paced and self-correcting, independent and unlimited in scope.
- To provide a range of experiences, challenges and beliefs that contribute to the children's understanding, empathy and acceptance of others, free from bias.
- To foster a respect and appreciation for the natural and man-made environments and provide opportunities for children to explore, create, problem-solve and make sense of the world.
- To honour childhood as a time of purposeful play, where Montessori work is meaningful, joyful and rooted in the present moment.
- To acknowledge the worth of the cultural and linguistic diversity that children bring to the environment.
- To encourage families to share their knowledge of their child and to reciprocate by sharing our knowledge of children with parents so that there is mutual growth and understanding in ways that benefit the child.
- To safeguard the security of information and documentation about children, particularly when shared on digital platforms.

As a school community:

- We value ongoing learning and reflection, and we encourage and support educators to continually develop and improve their skills.
- We encourage families to contribute as volunteers to provide ongoing support to enable our preschool to run effectively and flourish, through fundraising, maintenance and time.
- We actively cultivate respectful relationships based upon open communication with the aim of encouraging families' engagement and to build a strong sense of belonging.
- We collaborate with people, services and agencies to develop shared understandings and actions that support children and families.
- We are keen to be involved in local events to give back to our local community.