



“Building a stronger community through quality education.”

Stronger communities are good for all. Like our children on their own learning journey, Dubbo and District Preschools continue our own journey in our determination to pursue quality education and improve practice. Our beliefs, based on theory and current research, inform our day-to-day practices to support children to be and grow into respectful functioning members of society, learning skills for life.

At Dubbo and District Preschools

- **Wellbeing is paramount for everyone.** Each and every child is an individual; a competent, capable and active learner with many strengths and emerging skills and their wellbeing is imperative to learning. Children need good health as well as social and emotional skills to thrive. We work with families to ensure all children have a strong sense of wellbeing with particular emphasis on developing secure attachments, self-regulation, good nutrition and skill development. The wellbeing of our families and staff are also essential ingredients in supporting a child to prosper.
- **Relationships matter.** A strong community is built on strong relationships. Our relationships with children, families, colleagues and the community are important to us. We value working together for better outcomes for children, staff and the preschool community as a whole. This belief leads us to support children in building respectful relationships.
- **Play, play and more play.** Play underpins our program and is the means through which children engage with the world around them. Children are intrinsically motivated to learn through play and we encourage and support children’s play. Real learning happens for children in their play and the skills developed cannot be undervalued for the foundation they lay for each child’s later academic learning. Challenging activities and risky play are encouraged as they build confidence and resilience and promote cooperation and peer collaboration to achieve success. Teaching children respect for tools and their appropriate use allows them to develop real life skills.
- **Children have a voice – we listen and advocate.** Children have a right to be heard and believed. We listen to children. They are capable and have a voice in things that concern them. We empower children to be activists for change in their lives, encouraging them to be active community participants through engagement and decision making. We advocate for children and for their right to high quality early childhood education. We promote the value of early childhood education.
- **We are enriched by the diversity of our community.** Our families and educators bring diversity of heritage, culture and traditions to our service. We invite all families to share their culture and traditions with us. Collaborating with families and the wider community is beneficial for all. Living on Wiradjuri land, we are continuing to build connections with the custodial owners of our land the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and value their knowledge and rich traditions. Engagement with our local community for events and excursions enhances opportunities for children’s learning and belonging.
- **Environments stimulate learning, promote wellbeing and are respected.** Learning spaces are filled with engaging, open ended materials and resources. There are places to create, imagine, problem solve, reflect and relax. The social environment is scaffolded to support peers to learn and play together and provide opportunities for them to be fair, equitable and inclusive. All our physical environments are respected, which is important for both the present and future generations. We are continuously striving to teach the interdependence of all living things and how we as people

impact the environment. This begins with caring for our own natural and man-made environments and learning to reduce, reuse, recycle. Every small step is moving toward a better world for all.