



Oakbank Kindergarten Philosophy

“Mighty oaks from little acorns grow”

Parents and children used an oak leaf to provide one word that described the most important value that they want to support their child at Kindergarten in 2018. The oak leaf is based upon Oakbank Kindergarten’s logo from a founding parent in 1975 “**Mighty oaks from little acorns grow**”. Each family’s oak leaf has been attached to a branch in the kindergarten and together, with educator principles, underpins our relationships and program.

2018 parents’ and educators value:

Respect, honesty, love, patience, acceptance, relationships, independence, empathy, resilience, problem-solving, perseverance, kindness, positive self-esteem, inclusion, co-operation, compromise, consideration, confidence, independence, curiosity, imagination, creativity, being safe, having fun, environmental awareness

Statement of Philosophy

Our Kindergarten is a place where children, parents and staff have the right to feel valued, **respected**, informed, involved and connected. Parents are recognised and valued as children’s first educators and the most important people in young children’s lives. Educators work with parents, children and the community to build warm **relationships** and promote a **safe**, welcoming and friendly atmosphere that is **inclusive** and connected to local context and the natural environment.

Children **learn** through blocks of uninterrupted time at **PLAY** where they are encouraged, supported and challenged to develop **creative** thinking, **curiosity**, **problem solving**, **resilience**, **perseverance** and **imagination**. We value and promote **respect** for our environment, ourselves, each other, property and resources.

All children have the right to have **fun** and access a quality learning environment that supports **inclusion** and models **kindness**, **acceptance**, **honesty**, **consideration**, **empathy**, **compromise**, **patience** and **co-operation**. We work with families and children to build **confidence**, **a positive self-esteem** and **independence**. A families **love** for their child and support for their learning at kindergarten, in partnership with educators, will ensure the foundation for life long learning.

The Oakbank Kindergarten Community has a commitment to **environmental awareness**, connecting children to nature and their world. By respecting and valuing the environment children learn how to contribute to the care of the world around us and ultimately the survival of our planet.

Educators will use research based methods, our values, community context, the Early Years Learning Framework & Preschool Literacy and Numeracy Indicators to guide and inform practice. We plan for, assess and evaluate learning for individuals and the group, based on children’s strengths, interests and needs through an ongoing cycle of observation, parent feedback and reflection. Our discoveries and achievements are reported to families in a variety of ways, every day, to enable them to celebrate their children’s learning and well-being.

Oakbank Kindergarten is a place of joy and wonder. Children are valued as capable and competent, their decisions, skills and abilities are recognised, utilised and celebrated. Their explorations lead our emergent curriculum through their curiosity and wonderings. Through their connections with others and following their interests they develop a keen interest in the world around them and the power of learning. They take on challenges even when they are hard, accept mistakes and take great pride in their achievements.