



Kenmore West Kindergarten Statement of Philosophy

Kenmore West Kindergarten is an incredibly special and unique learning environment for young children and their families. Our kindergarten is homely, safe and welcoming with a happy and relaxed atmosphere. We have a beautiful, engaging and natural environment, rich in biodiversity and opportunities for children to explore, investigate and wonder. It is these qualities and the following values, beliefs and understandings that make Kenmore West Kindergarten the special place it is.

Children's words that describe our kindergarten

It teaches us, it takes care of us, the teachers are interesting, kindly is so fun and interesting, we get to try all new things, there are lots of animals to explore

Our values, beliefs and understandings of:

Children

- We believe that children have rights.
- We believe that all children are unique, competent and capable individuals with a wealth of knowledge, ideas and experiences.
- We believe that children have an intrinsic desire to seek meaning of their world. In our supportive learning community there are opportunities for children to question, inquire, co-construct, take risks, create, imagine, explore, investigate, experiment, problem solve and communicate.
- We believe that when children participate as active citizens, negotiate their learning and contribute to curriculum decision making processes they will develop a lifelong love and a sense of ownership of their learning.
- We embrace each child's individual needs, strengths, interests and culture and are passionate about providing an environment which fosters each child's social, emotional, cognitive, creative, spiritual and physical development through expression in the many languages.
- It is imperative children have opportunities to grow in confidence and resilience through taking risks and testing their capabilities in a safe and supportive environment.

Words used by parents to describe children –

Happy, relaxed, inquisitive, encouraged, confident, self belief, joyful, content, resilient, respect, take chances, love, friendship, fun, learners

Families

- We believe that parents are partners in their children's learning. Educators at Kenmore West Kindergarten draw upon the parents' understanding, wisdom and knowledge of their child and work together to support their child's learning and development.
- We actively encourage parents and other family members to be collaborators and co-learners within the learning community.
- We believe every family brings an incredibly rich and diverse set of beliefs, talents, and skills.
- Every family must feel valued and have a sense of belonging within the community.

Words used by parents to describe families –

Involved, consulted, valued, friendly, supportive, united, caring

Community

- Kenmore West Kindergarten is an inclusive community.
- We strive to develop strong and equitable relationships amongst all members of our community.
- Communication is the key to a healthy and positive learning environment and community.
- We foster a strong sense of social justice and understanding of human rights, local and global issues.
- Kenmore West Kindergarten values and celebrates diversity. We are committed to ensuring all members of our community feel a sense of belonging regardless of their social or cultural background, their physical or linguistic needs or their unique learning style.
- Our program is rich in opportunities to explore and connect with our local community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander communities.

Words used by parents to describe community –

Differences, inclusive, connected

Educators/Leadership

- Our role as Early Childhood educators is as a co-constructor of knowledge. Through collaboration with all members of the learning community, we aim to provide an environment, which is supportive, inspiring, engaging and rich in meaningful learning experiences.
- We believe in building strong, positive and respectful relationships with all members of the community.
- It is imperative that educators listen to, question and challenge every child.

- We aim to develop a deep understanding of every child and to facilitate and guide their learning and development through careful observation, evaluation, assessment, reflection and informed Early Childhood research.
- We have a responsibility as a documenter of children's learning....telling their stories, making learning visible.
- Educators have a responsibility to advocate for Early Childhood Education and rights of the child.
- Educators engage in open, honest communication, maintain relationships based on respect and equity, share and value ideas, skills, strengths and contributions and challenge one another in a positive and supportive manner.
- We are committed to ongoing Professional Development and regular reflection and evaluation of our teaching practices.
- We ensure children's rights in terms of child protection and safety are met at all times.
- Educators along with the management committee demonstrate responsibility for implementing the National Quality Standard and other legislative requirements.
- It is the role of educators to work in partnerships with the management committee to promote a dynamic, professional and energetic organisational culture with a commitment to continuously improve the service in order to maintain clear directions and values towards quality education for our children and families.
- At Kenmore West Kindergarten we provide strong leadership to ensure confidentiality, the continuity of high quality educators and effective administration systems eg: records, policies, procedures are maintained and reviewed regularly to ensure the efficient operation of our service.

Words used by parents to describe Educators –

Caring, fun loving, inclusive, professional, respectful, down to earth, happy, forward thinking, thoughtful, hard workers, energetic, enthusiastic, positive, flexible, patient

Teaching and Learning

- We strongly believe in implementing an integrated, negotiated and emergent curriculum – a democratic environment where all members of the community – children, teachers and parents have the opportunity to be part of curriculum decision-making processes.
- We value peer mentoring to promote the children's co-construction of knowledge and to create a true sense of community.
- Clear expectations and guidelines for behaviour management are developed and discussed with children, parents and teachers.
- Documentation is an essential tool for teachers and children to re-visit, reflect and plan for future experiences.
- Exploration of feelings, emotions, friendships and social justice issues are central in our program.
- We believe in a flexible learning approach where children are given the time and space to engage in critical inquiry, participate as reflective problem solvers, test theories and entertain possibilities.
- The Arts are an essential part of children's educational experiences and an integral component of the curriculum at Kenmore West Kindergarten. Offering a strong Arts program for young children stems from our understanding that The Arts are an invaluable means for children to explore and make sense of their world.
- Our program is rich with meaningful opportunities and experiences for the children to explore language, literacy and numeracy learning.
- We promote physical activity and healthy risk taking by providing challenges to develop agility, strength, flexibility, control, balance, coordination, confidence, independence and resilience.
- We support children's developing ability to take responsibility for their own health and physical well being by modeling healthy eating and nutrition practices, personal hygiene practices, independence and self help skills, rest and relaxation and safe play.
- Using a range of yoga and relaxation techniques, the curriculum at Kenmore West Kindergarten fosters a strong sense of self-awareness.
- We recognise the importance for children to develop knowledge and skills with information and communication technologies and are committed to using a range of technologies to assist in inquiry based learning, explore and investigate ideas, solve problems, create and work in collaboration with other children and adults.

Words used by parents to describe teaching and learning –

Democratic, resourceful, recognising different learning styles, choices about learning, flexible, respect for the children, Fun, excellent teaching quality, innovative, interactive

Environment

- We recognise the environment as a powerful resource for teachers to use to support the learning of young children.
- We believe in creating an environment that is aesthetically rich, with attention given to maintaining high quality resources and materials (built and natural) that foster self expression, self and world discovery, inquiry learning and communication.
- We strive to ensure our environment is interesting, educational and full of discovery by providing a wide range of resources, including natural and recycled materials, which have enormous creative possibilities and encourage the desire to pose questions, investigate and discover.
- Education for Sustainability is an integral component of the Kenmore West Kindergarten culture and curriculum. Children's intrinsic love and appreciation for our natural environment is fostered. There are ample opportunities for children to engage and interact in our natural environment. There are opportunities for children to engage in learning experiences that empower them as active citizens for a sustainable future.

Words used by parents to describe our environment –

Trees, vege garden, chooks, respect for the environment, enables independence, supports risk taking, exploration

The Kenmore West Kindergarten philosophy is dynamic. Through a process of self-review and critical reflection, the Kenmore West Kindergarten philosophy and culture continues to grow and evolve; ensuring our unique qualities are maintained and that optimal learning outcomes for all children are achieved.