



Oak Flats Public School Preschool Philosophy



At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we “promote academic success along with social and emotional wellbeing, supporting all students to reach their full potential.” (Oak Flats Public School)

We believe that the early years (0-8 years) are the most important time for development and growth in every child’s life. At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we nurture this development by employing educators whose role is to scaffold and extend children’s learning. At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we encourage children to enjoy a sense of **being** with unhurried time to play and experience everyday life. As the children engage in meaningful play experiences in a social setting at preschool, they are **becoming** capable, competent, and confident learners. Children at Oak Flats Public School Preschool feel safe, secure, and supported through meaningful relationships with all educators. By taking ownership of the curriculum and environment, the children develop a sense of **belonging**. Children know that they have a voice that is respected and valued.

At the Preschool we believe that it is each child’s right engage in playful learning experiences that enable them to reach their full potential. These opportunities underpin our high-quality practices and a curriculum which is reinforced by research, the principles of the National Quality Standards, the Early Years Learning Framework, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Early Childhood Code of Ethics. The following principles guide our practice:

Secure, Respectful and Reciprocal Relationships

We believe that relationships are key to a child’s success in their early childhood years. We value positive, trusting, and open relationships with educators, children, families, the local community, and school community. As educators, we invest time in becoming familiar with and connected to the children and their families. We build ties that last throughout the child’s time at Oak Flats Public School.

Partnerships

At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we believe that families, children, staff, the local community, and the school community are all partners in the educational and care process. We believe in regularly connecting with the school and local community and embed events in our program. We strongly believe in supporting children and the school community with the transition to school process. Educators work together as a cohesive team to provide a high-quality program. Children are encouraged to be actively involved in making decisions about their time at preschool through discussions on what they are learning. We work closely with families to bridge the gap between home and school and provide continuity of care and education.

High Expectations and Equity

We believe that all children are individuals who have the right to achieve at their own pace and according to their own abilities. At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, the educators meet the children at their developmental level and hold high expectations for all children to reach to their fullest potential. We continually strive to find equitable, developmentally appropriate ways that use the child’s culture to ensure that all the children thrive in our learning setting. We work with specialists to provide activities that support the children through inclusive education.

Respect for Diversity

The Convention on the Rights of the Child inform educators’ practice by respectfully educating every child while accepting all genders, backgrounds and abilities. We honour the histories, cultures, languages, traditions, child rearing practices, and lifestyle choices of families. At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we meaningfully embed different cultural perspectives into the program. We celebrate the similarities and differences that we all bring to preschool and are respectful of each other. The Preschool daily acknowledges the people of the Dharawal nation and thanking them for letting us share their land. This daily acknowledgement is used to support the children understand why we make sustainable choices.



Ongoing Learning and Reflective Practice

At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we believe that we are all lifetime learners. With regular findings in research and the Early Childhood Profession constantly evolving, it is necessary for educators to engage in professional learning. We willingly seek out, reflect on, and implement professional learning that enhances our practice, ensuring that we create a high quality curriculum. Our educators regularly engage in critical reflection of our curriculum and practices to inform our continual improvement. We welcome reflective practice from families, the children, the community, and the school community. Educators draw upon the principles and practices of the Early Years Learning Framework.

Play and the Curriculum

We believe that play is every young child's most beneficial way to learn. Through play children develop dispositions that will encourage lifelong learning. At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we provide a stimulating play-based curriculum that supports exploration, investigation, meaningful engagement with others, creativity, and expression of self. All children and families are encouraged and supported to contribute to the program. Our program cements its foundations in the Early Years Learning Framework.

Sustainability

At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we believe that we have a responsibility to teach tomorrow's leaders about sustainable uses of natural resources and how to care for the overall well being of the earth. We provide a learning environment and experiences that encourage reflection, knowledge building, and advocacy for a better planet by embedding sustainable practices into our day.

Personal Philosophies

"Children come to us with such natural curiosities, skills, interests, relationships and a love of learning and development. Through caring and respectful relationships, a fun and engaging educational setting and play-based learning program we can support each individual to become capable, confident, compassionate and creative children who are excited and ready to transition to school." Jodi Niedermayer - Nominated Supervisor, Educational Leader and Responsible Person in Charge

"All children regardless of age, gender, ability, culture or religion have the right to high quality early childhood education that is sensitive to their needs and is provided within a safe, caring, stimulating and healthy environment to reach their full potential." – Alice Wigny, Preschool Supervisor and Relieving Responsible Person in Charge

"I embrace opportunities to teach young children about kindness and friendship. I value that my work provides experiences where I can facilitate cultural acceptance, inclusion, and the opportunity to build up each child's positive self-esteem. Every child is important and deserves to know that they are capable learners who can benefit from trying their best when faced with challenges. A strong foundation in early childhood development sets children up for a life of learning"
- Elisa Higgs, Early Childhood Teacher

"Quality learning experiences and activities with a focus on school transitions. Respect for self, others and learning. Developmental boundaries and routines supported by Preschool PBL" – Nicole Tate, Early Childhood Educator

"Children need to be loved and cared for in an educational environment and have a relationship with each educator" – Amanda Falcon, Early Childhood Educator

Children's Voices

"Playing, drawing, reading, relaxing and using the blocks." "I like everything." "It's important to be nice."

"Playing with friends." "I like the monster trucks." "I like hot wheels city." "Art and making flowers."

"It's important to play with me, share with me and be gentle." "I like that all my friends are here."

"I like the farm, the dollhouse, the cubbyhouse and babies." "I like when Mummy is here."

"It's important to take care of preschool." "Sharing toys with other people." "Play together."

"I like my special truck." "The marble tracks." "Playing in the sandpit."