



St John's Lutheran Kindergarten Philosophy

"Christ is all". Colossians 3:11

St John's is a Lutheran Kindergarten promoting lifelong learning in a nurturing environment. We foster the Christian values of kindness, respect, tolerance, patience, forgiveness, acceptance, love, gentleness, and self-control.

Our Philosophy

Our philosophy is a tool that guides our teaching and shares our beliefs. It also helps Educators and Parents understand our individual approach to early learning. It is written by our teaching team with input from our families and our community.

Our program and learning are play based

"Play is the highest form of research" Albert Einstein.

Children learn through play, following the children's interests and needs. Through play children can develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments. The environment encourages the child to engage in exploration, questioning, discovery, creativity, and problem solving in a cooperative and collaborative manner.

Our physical setting and the learning environment at our Kindergarten are secure and stable, yet flexible enough to ensure that each child can build on the strengths, interests, and abilities that will enable them to achieve their full potential. The children's learning is scaffolded and built upon by their interactions with both the physical and social environments. Reflective language and thinking are used in these interactions, extending children's language and higher order thinking, as per theorist, Vygotsky's Social cultural theory. Learning becomes almost like a chain reaction, where one part of learning becomes a path to further learning and so on.

We believe that all children, staff, and families have the right to be treated with respect in a positive and accepting environment, where the rights of all individuals are acknowledged. We are a community within a community, and we welcome you all to it.

Sharing culture

We recognise and respect the Wathaurong people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we learn and play. We value their knowledge and culture, which is embedded in our practices.

ST JOHN'S NEWTOWN

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We implement the French Immersion Program providing an environment for children to experience a rich vocabulary spoken throughout our daily practices, through language, song, dance, stories, games, and discussions.

Our program is inclusive and is based on acceptance of, and respect for the diversity of each child and their family regardless of ability, religion, gender, race, language, culture or status.

Learning

Our Kindergarten is committed to providing a warm, caring, positive environment for everyone. The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and the Christian Studies Framework are used as a guide for learning. Our days are play based and flexible to the needs of the children, with a combination of child-initiated and adult-facilitated relationships, experiences, and interactions.

We believe that all children are competent and capable learners. All children learn at different rates, in different ways and at different times. Each child can, at their own pace, develop independence, self-identity and regulation of emotions and an ability to safely question the world around them.

Social/Emotional Development

The wellbeing of each child is paramount. We support this through our whole Kindergarten environment, learning about expressing emotions, being kind and respectful to others.

We strive to foster self-worth in each child and for them to become a positive, effective member of the Kindergarten and wider community. Child Safe Standards guide our practices.

Community

We believe in the importance of families being their child's first teacher. We recognise that family relationships are important and crucial in a child's life. You know your child better than anyone else and we appreciate and embrace the sharing of information and ideas to enhance your child's learning, and actively encourage family participation. Families are informed about the program and their child's progress through Storypark and regular interactions.

We believe that learning about the whole child will give us the tools to teach them in ways suitable for them. Knowing the child, their family, their culture, their learning style, their needs, and interests gives us a wider picture, as per theorist Bronfenbrenner ecological systems theory. Everything in a child and the child's environment affects how a child grows and develops.

School Connections

We are Blessed to be right in the heart of school. Our school transition program is enhanced by our access to the school grounds. We are fortunate to participate in extended classes such as music and library and visiting the Prep classrooms. Our participation extends into visiting our local Church and other community events such as the ANZAC service. Having access to these facilities enables children to develop the level of self-confidence that enables their successful transition to school.

Sustainability

We incorporate sustainable practices into our kinder functionality to reduce waste, encourage recycling and promote the care and respect of our environment. We care for the planet today and make choices that will positively change our planets future.

Written by our Kindergarten Team with the support and feedback from our families and our community.