



## Our Service Philosophy

Reviewed May 2023

At St Lucia Kindergarten we **believe** in education for each child through play, so that every child's individual needs, strengths and interests can be provided for, whilst fostering their emotional, cognitive, creative, and physical development.

Educators at St Lucia Kindergarten **draw upon early childhood education research and theories** about best pedagogy and practice. We utilise the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines, the Early Years Learning Framework and *Listening and Learning Together: C&K's Curriculum Approach* to deliver a **high-quality, play-based, holistic and child-centred program**.

We **provide** healthy, nurturing, stimulating and positive learning environments that promote **Joy, Playfulness, and Creativity**.

We strive to provide a warm, home-like environment, filled with joy and spontaneity. We work **collaboratively with children, families and the community** to provide a caring, safe, inspiring environment where children feel a sense of belonging and are supported to play, create, explore, imagine, investigate and learn more about themselves, others and their world.

We **value** respectful relationships and community, where all members feel **Empowered**, and have the opportunity to **negotiate, collaborate and contribute in decision-making processes**.

We **encourage children to exchange ideas and express their feelings, opinions and thoughts**. By **collaborating with children and documenting their voices**, we co-create an emergent curriculum. We use **intentional teaching to carefully extend** what children already know and are capable of.

At St Lucia Kindergarten we **warmly welcome, appreciate and respect every individual** in our community, and celebrate their unique talents, strengths, experiences and knowledge. From the moment they enter the service, we work towards building warm and trusting relationships with all children and their families. A sense of belonging and community is fostered as we **encourage our families to be involved in all aspects of the service**. We acknowledge that parents and caregivers are the first and most important influence in a child's life. We **collaborate and create shared goals with parents**, empowering and supporting them in their role, and sharing the joy of their child's early years.

We celebrate **our linguistically and culturally diverse** community. We **encourage families to share their cultural beliefs and customs** in order for us to **celebrate, value, respect and honour the identities** of the children in our community.

**Educators are also encouraged to share their ideas** and build on their competencies and interests, and are involved in **ongoing critical reflection and professional learning as a team**. This ensures continuous improvement of individual pedagogy and practice, and **continuous improvement** of the Kindergarten as a whole.

We **support** and nurture a community of learners who are passionate about the environment, and consequently show **Respect and Empathy** to people, place and animals.

We **acknowledge and respect First Nations people** and strive to embed this in all aspects of our program. We acknowledge the land our Kindergarten is on belongs to the Turrbal people, and as caretakers we **encourage children to respect the land on which we learn, and to care for the plants and animals who call this place home**. We honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, perspectives and continuing connections to land, sea and sky. We promote **reconciliation** within our program and believe it is a privilege to learn from First Nations people and walk together for a better future.

We provide children with opportunities **to connect with nature** and to develop an **awareness about human impact on the natural environment**. Through our curriculum, we hope to instil a sense of responsibility in children to care for the world around them.

We **promote** a love of learning, and consistency of care, where each child feels safe and supported.

We **view all children as unique, confident, competent and capable individuals**, to be treated with respect and empathy. We recognise each child's efforts and celebrate their individual achievements. We believe in inclusion and **equity of care for each child**, and strive to ensure that our service is accessible to all children and their families. We strive to create an environment where children are supported to become enthusiastic and passionate about learning, and to value positive and respectful relationships with others.