

Helm Street Preschool FAQs

We really value.....

Community and providing a sense of belonging for all of our families and children.

Educators strive to...

Provide a safe and secure environment that provides play experiences for children to learn.

Our Educational Program is shared with families in many ways, here are some of them...

A community journal – where educators, children and families can add their ideas, comments and information for others to enjoy.

We use the StoryPark app to keep our families up to date with what we are doing at Kinder.

Our program, including routines, is organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning. A normal day at our preschool usually runs like this...

We value play, this is how children learn and become resilient, confident and happy adults. We offer an indoor/outdoor program that encourages play experiences through investigation, engagement and positive interactions. Each day we enjoy some time together as a group. Groups can form with a couple of children only or as larger gatherings. Our group times can be in or outdoors and involve reading, stories, movement, dance and singing. There are so many ways to be together, even during our mealtimes which are progressive. Progressive meals allow children the freedom to continuous play and the right to choose when they are hungry. Children are much more likely to eat all their meal and try new foods if their voices are heard and they have more control over when they are feeling hungry.

The expertise of families is recognised and they share in decision making about their child's learning and wellbeing, this occurs in the following ways....

We encourage families to our kinder, We are welcoming and encourage families into our kinder at any time to connect with our staff, program and pets and be part of their kindergarten journey. We have parent teacher meetings 3 times a year with opportunities to speak to staff at any time with any questions.

Each child's learning and development is assessed as part of an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting and evaluation, we share this with families and seek their involvement by... Sharing our journal in our classroom with the children and their families, to encourage whole community participation.

Constant conversations with families and children to assist in planning for individual children.

This is how we build relationships and engage with the local community and encourage families to be involved in our Service.

Do we have structure?

Yes, we do have structure at Helm Street, from the outside it might look like the children are engaging in unstructured free play but we are targeted and purposeful in our engagements and planning.

Our philosophy states that it is: 'based upon children learning through play, in an inclusive environment that is safe, friendly, welcoming and caring. We encourage child-initiated play as this encourages exploration, questioning, discovery, creativity and problem solving.'

We put structure in our day through children initiated experiences, such as cooking quiches from the eggs we get from our chicken. With this in mind we also engage children in mat time experiences that are engaging for all children, this includes dancing, singing, stories and conversations.

How do we learn at Helm Street?

We provide the children with enriching areas that support many different stages of development. Children need to practice social and functional skills in everyday environments and so they are given opportunities to do

this at their own pace, an integral part of our program is that our days are predictable, consistent and engaging, the children become involved in the routine and this becomes the vehicle to learn social, emotional and functional skills.