

## Lockington Pre-school Philosophy



### Children

We encourage respect for the natural environment by educating children to care for the world around them. Children move freely between activities with access to indoor/outdoor choices, along with a variety of incidental and planned learning experiences. Educators act as facilitators of learning: guiding, challenging, modelling, supporting and extending each individual child. Activities and materials are developed or changed according to the children interests and needs throughout the year. As children become the instigators, controllers and negotiators of who they are and their role in the environment, they learn to develop greater strength in decision-making, problem-solving, peer relationships, resilience and perseverance, setting foundations for all future learning.

### Natural Environment

At Lockington Pre-school we nurture children's natural curiosity to discover and investigate their world by providing an environment rich in natural beauty. Opportunities are provided for children to actively explore using 'open-ended', natural and recycled materials in play. Children are given freedom within their environment to create, question, investigate and discover. The focus is not on the 'end product', but on the process of learning and the journey of discovery.

### Respectful Relationships & Leadership

Staff understand that children learn and develop at their own pace, with their own learning style and we support each child's sense of identity and ways of being. Our inclusive approach respects each individual child and the knowledge they bring with them. Staff work together as a team, drawing on their skills and experiences to model and guide positive outcomes for children. Reflective practice underpins all our interactions and contributes to intentional teaching methods. We are passionate educators and committed to further developing our skills and knowledge.

### Program & Practice

Exploring children's spontaneous ideas as they happen and building on their strengths are key aspects of our child-centred approach. We offer opportunities for uninterrupted 'continuous play', with educators observing and reflecting on how children interact with the learning environment and each other, to assist with planning and scaffolding further curious, self-motivated children with a positive attitude towards learning, embracing the five key elements of the Early Years Learning Framework: Identity, Community, Wellbeing, Learning and Communication.

## Belonging Being Becoming

### Partnerships: Families-Educators- Community

We embrace a strong connection to the Lockington community and value the diverse contributions that each family brings to the learning experience. Families are regularly invited into the centre and encouraged to be actively involved. Partnerships developed between parents, educators, committee and management (Shire of Campaspe) are vital in supporting children's learning. Through reciprocal communication and shared ideas, strong, trusting and inclusive relationships are formed. Together we create a wonderful sense of belonging to the Lockington Pre-school.