



Elizabeth East Kindergarten **Philosophy Statement**

Elizabeth East Kindergarten is a Department of Education and child development (DECD) public pre-school facility providing education and care to all families with children of pre-school age. Here we work together to create a learning environment which is responsive to the needs of the children, families and the community.

We believe that by working together we create an environment, which encourage and enhance each child's learning. This environment is one where children will be:

- ☺ Able to work independently and as part of a team with adults and peers;
- ☺ Actively involved in their learning through a play based curriculum;
- ☺ Offered a variety of concrete experiences and challenges they can explore and discover;
- ☺ Able to feel happy, safe, secure and accepted;
- ☺ Free to express themselves and their needs;
- ☺ Involved in developmentally appropriate activities;
- ☺ Able to discover the pleasure of learning and have fun in the process.

We program using the Commonwealth curriculum document: Belonging, Being and Becoming as well as Reflect, Respect, Relate. We believe in providing a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum that allows for access and participation by all children:

Planning involves a wide range of factors including-

- ◆ Identifying outcomes for children's learning and wellbeing
- ◆ Supporting, challenging and extending their knowledge
- ◆ Building on existing knowledge, family background and other needs
- ◆ Children's developmental level, skills and knowledge
- ◆ Differences in individual learning styles
- ◆ Respect for children's rights, values and beliefs
- ◆ Celebrating the diversity of the community
- ◆ Antibias, gender equity, and protective behaviours issues
- ◆ Understanding technology in all forms
- ◆ Providing a safe physical and emotional environment
- ◆ Using current research and other forms of Professional development

As Early Childhood Educators we believe that learning in young children is promoted when families and staff work in a partnership. It is important that families feel that their needs are met and values respected. This is achieved by communication and involvement of the families to a level that best suits them. There is encouragement to participate in the running of the kindergarten through committee involvement, fundraising and social events, and an active part of the kindergarten program.

As a staff we believe that to best cater for the educational needs of the children we need to:

- Have respect for individual differences, needs and strengths amongst the staff
- Have open communication and be responsive to colleagues ideas and needs
- Share roles and responsibilities and work as a co-operative and supportive team
- Seek professional challenges that will improve programming and facilities, to benefit the interests of the community.

We believe that a quality education facility is one where adults have an open and positive attitude and where a child centered curriculum is valued. Research indicates that children's success in learning is achieved by having a positive self-esteem, respect and support from others, within a fun and interesting environment.