

Our preschool philosophy

Learning through play - together we create lifelong learners

When children play, they learn

Yarralumla Preschool (YPS) is a beautiful and inviting space perfect for play and learning. When children have the time and opportunity to discover, imagine, question, challenge, and create they expand their thinking and understanding of themselves and their world. Our learning space inspires children in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere for deep and meaningful learning.

Children's interests direct how we plan play experiences to support and extend developmentally appropriate learning. Children bring a diverse set of skills and knowledge to their play. When children have the opportunity and agency to direct their play experience, they naturally construct their own understanding and contribute to others' learning.

Our deliberate connection between indoor and outdoor learning at YPS honours each individual and development of the whole child. By creating stimulating and authentic learning experiences, we support children to develop critical thinking, social understanding and self-awareness.

When children play, they build relationships

Children thrive in an environment that is fun, friendly and loving. By building relationships with educators and peers, and the broader school community, we enrich the lives of everyone in our preschool community.

Through these relationships we build a community of learners. Children learn how to think, understand, communicate, behave, express emotions and develop social skills. We support a learning environment that values inclusion, teaching children that we must live our lives with compassion, acceptance and recognition of difference.

We acknowledge that YPS is a culturally diverse community. Fostering the partnership with families and understanding that parents are a child's first educators, we seek to explore children's identity and belonging through their culture. We support the identity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Cultural connections are embedded in our play and learning to build a future of understanding, respect and reconciliation.

When children play, they grow

Play allows children to develop lasting dispositions to learn. Children who play are intrinsically motivated to explore, hypothesise and discover. Play is child-centered - it can be social, emotional, physical, cognitive or imaginative. Most importantly play is fun! It fosters curiosity, drives a child's independence and establishes confidence, skills and knowledge to become life-long learners.

As early childhood educators we are uniquely positioned to witness the child in the 'here and now' and nurture confidence and skills needed for their future. Through meaningful observation and reflection, we draw upon the strengths, talents and abilities of each individual. We plan with the child at the center of all that we do.

Through play we explore the school's **STAR** values of **Safe**, **Team player**, **Active learner** and **Respectful**. Preschool children know these values as *I am a friend, I am safe, I am a learner*.

(Updated April 2023)