



Statement of Philosophy

Cootamundra Preschool has been providing quality early childhood education to the Cootamundra community for over fifty years. Educators and the management committee work together as a team to make decisions that reflect a long-term commitment to the viability of our service. We recognise the important role of providing a structured environment for children to develop lifelong skills in the community and the world in which we live. Our service is an active participant in the National Quality Framework which guides our ongoing reflective practices. Educators values, beliefs and practices reflect the work of theorists and are supported by research and professional development.

We believe children are capable and competent and are active natural learners. We aim to provide a play-based program where children are free to make choices about the way they use resources thus encouraging dispositions and skills for learning. We want our preschool environment to be one where each child can develop socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically as individuals. Our educational principles and practices and the learning outcomes we work towards for each child are informed and guided by the Early Years learning Framework.

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners of the land on which we play and learn. We recognize the importance of diversity and inclusiveness in our society and embrace them within the preschool community. We realise the importance of the rights of the child, social justice and humanist values. We aim to treat each child and family with dignity and respect – exploring, acknowledging and valuing our similarities and differences. We aim to provide an environment in which all families feel welcome and comfortable and are free to be actively involved in their child's learning and development at preschool.

As educators we take pride in treating children, families and each other with respect and warmth and to be caring and empathetic members of our community. We believe that by modelling positive behavior and language we guide the children's understanding and appreciation of the rights and responsibilities, needs and feelings of themselves and others. We encourage and model thoughtfulness about sustainability and protecting and preserving the environment in which we all live.

We believe in promoting healthy choices in life. We encourage children, families and educators to be mindful of, and to become increasingly responsible for, their own health, wellbeing and a healthy mental culture.

We believe preschool is an important step between home and school. Through our routines and practices, we aim to provide opportunities for children to develop social, emotional, physical, thinking and communication skills to help them make smooth and successful transitions and embrace further learning in the future.

Date reviewed by staff: 26/02/2020

Date reviewed by committee: 28/02/2020

Next review date: 26/02/2021