

Our Philosophy

“Education is child’s play at Christopher Robin”

We believe that children learn best through play, as through play we observe a child’s “whole development”. We see their social, emotional, language, thinking and problem solving abilities, together with growth in both large and fine motor skills. Each child is seen and valued as an individual and is encouraged to develop a positive self image. We believe that children need to feel confident in themselves and be able to contribute and feel part of the group in their own special way. Although each child is a unique individual, they also belong to the group and are encouraged to contribute in respectful and kind ways. We strive for a genuinely inclusive learning environment, with respect for all abilities and diversity; including fostering a greater awareness of Indigenous culture and history.

Our program, which is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards, is flexible and allows children to play and experiment with different materials with minimal interruptions. The children are encouraged to choose the area in which they want to work, to spend a reasonable time at it, and to complete the task. Time and space are allowed for the child to observe, to explore and to play in imaginative and creative ways. We value children and adults being in the moment and see mindfulness as an important part of everyone’s wellbeing.

We favour the use of unstructured materials within activities such as collage, painting, drawing, clay, blocks, and dramatic play indoors. While outdoors sand, water, mud, nature, box cubbies, dramatic and physical play all feature heavily. A wide variety of ‘playful junk’ and recycled materials is used within the programme. We offer these because there is no right or wrong way to use them, and the emphasis is on the process not the end product, therefore allowing children to engage at a level that is satisfying and appropriate to them.

Our educators work to build warm, caring relationships with each child, so that they can know, and provide for, the developmental and learning needs of each child in the group. They aim to be responsive and reflective in their teaching role, and believe children are capable, competent and active learners. We also aim to form strong, genuine, respectful partnerships with families that will ensure open communication, and participation. By drawing on the knowledge, resources and skills each family brings we can enhance the learning for not only their child, but the whole group. We also engage with our local community, developing in children an awareness of their wider world, and an understanding of the community that surrounds and supports them.

Our wonderful park based location, close to the Wangaratta Central Business District, and adjacent to the King River, has been the catalyst for another strong element that runs through our programming, that of developing an awareness and appreciation of the natural world in which we live. Children are given many opportunities to engage hands on with nature, and its elements (water, soil, plants, living creatures), with the aim that this connection sets the foundations for caring for our precious natural environment.

“Kindergarten”, is a German word, which literally translates to “children’s garden”. At Christopher Robin, we want to assist your children to grow and blossom within our nurturing garden! Likewise we also strive to grow as a centre, and as such are committed to continuous self-reflection and improvement.