Philosophy of D.P.S Wingarra Aboriginal Preschool

“The vision of Wingarra Aboriginal Preschool is to provide children with a happy, safe and stimulating environment that will promote the development of an intrinsic and lifelong love of learning.”

We believe that all children are innately capable and resourceful learners and that this natural ability is best developed by play. Play is learning - and through play children explore, investigate, communicate, discover, imagine, create and socialise. They need opportunities to develop and strengthen skills in literacy, creative arts, mathematics, science and social and emotional development. Our preschool programs provide an inclusive setting that recognises children's varied abilities, interests, needs and learning styles and is based upon the principles of the NSW curriculum framework, The National Early Years Learning Framework “Belonging being and becoming.”

At Wingarra children are recognized as individuals with differing familial, cultural and community contexts and values present in their backgrounds. As an Aboriginal preschool we aim to create an environment in which Aboriginal culture is taught in a preschool context. We know that the overall literacy and numeracy of Indigenous children improves when the children learn in a preschool environment that recognizes and includes their social and cultural backgrounds. We also aim to increase the understanding and value of Aboriginal culture for all students.

Parents are a vital component of our program. Parents are viewed as partners, collaborators and advocates for their children. At Wingarra Preschool we believe that parents are the child’s first teachers and children learn best when parents are involved in their educational program. We therefore encourage parents to share their skills and knowledge to support our learning program. We liaise with parents on a daily basis and they are always welcome to visit any time during the day.

The staff at Wingarra work as a team to provide a safe, stimulating and challenging environment that facilitates the development of the ‘whole’ child. We are committed to facilitating programs that support the individual needs and interests of the child. Each staff member brings personal qualities such as respect, empathy, warmth and a passion for learning. During play, small group work and in group time strong bonds and relationships are formed with the children. The staff use reflective practice and ongoing self assessment to provide quality programs and they acknowledge the importance of the Early Years Learning Framework as significant in providing the best quality programs for children. Our staff are early childhood professionals who are visible advocates for the rights of the child and the fundamental nature of education offered to them.

At Wingarra an important part of our program is nurturing established friendship and support of the wider community. We are supported by many outside agencies for our annual Fun Day, NAIDOC Day, Paint the Town Read, gross motor programs and other events throughout the year. Without their support these special days would not be possible. We also encourage Early Childhood students and work experience students to take part in our program.