

Balamara Preschool Philosophy

We believe children are **amazing**, **resourceful**, **creative** beings from whom we can learn the joy, spontaneity and fresh perspectives that children possess. We **honour** these early years as the most **precious** and important times where the foundations of life skills are formed.

We understand that families are the first teachers in their child's life and we strive to form strong bonds and **collaborative relationships** with families, knowing that children are intricately connected to **family**, **culture**, **community** and **place**.

We are excited by the **diversity** within our community and we draw on the **richness** of the many cultures, Australian culture and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tradition to provide **inclusive** learning environments and experiences. We strive to **connect** with our local community so children learn they are an important part of a wider society.

We believe that children thrive in an **enriching** environment where they feel safe and secure, and where they build **relationships** with committed and responsive educators who **nurture** their souls, who **challenge** and **support** their learning and who promote fairness and equity.

We are committed to providing a holistic, **play-based curriculum** based on the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, where individual learning dispositions and 'ways of knowing' are respected and where **every child** is supported to aim high.

We honour the **children's journey** through sharing their **wonder**, giving them a 'voice', trusting their decisions, following their lead, building their confidence, delighting in their **friendships**, supporting their **transitions** and celebrating their **achievements**. We nurture their sense of responsibility for their own behaviour and support their growing awareness of their impact on the environment and society they live in.

We delight in the wonder and beauty of the **natural world** and we strive to cultivate this appreciation in the children, to empower them to **love** and **protect** our precious environment and to ensure its **sustainable** future.

We value **reflective practice**, meaningful documentation, **collegiality**, ongoing education and family and community **feedback** as important strategies for self-assessment and **continual improvement** and we use these tools to ensure our practices, environment and relationships are the best possible for the children and families of Balamara.

