Woodside Preschool Philosophy Statement

This statement was written in 2012 following feedback from school staff, parents, children and centre staff and has been reviewed by staff (with feedback from families) each year since. It is a statement of what we believe preschool at Woodside should look like.

This year our aim is to find out the nuts and bolts of what you think is really important for a preschool to offer - and then how well you think we do this!

We would invite all families to have a look at our fabulous visual display of our ‘Philosophy Statement in Action” which is on our website as a PDF and has been emailed to individual families. Staff have spent time this year thinking about what our philosophy statement ‘looks like’ and this display of photos should help to clarify the statements in the document.

It would be great if you could fill the following survey once you have looked at the document. We will also have a hard copy of the PDF on display at Kindy. Surveys can be emailed or returned to Parent Suggestion Box in the Locker Area.

Please feel free to add written comments at any stage as your constructive feedback can be very helpful for our future planning.

If you would like some feedback on your individual comments, feel free to add your name.

Thank You

Woodside Preschool staff and Governing Council

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We Believe;
• In the diversity of families in our community and that each family has the right
to a service responsive to their individual needs.
• That families are children’s first and most influential educators and staff are
committed to working in partnership with parents and the community to ensure a
safe, welcoming, stimulating and relaxed learning environment.
• That effective communication and trusting relationships support the
development of each child’s social skills.
• That each child has the right to a learning environment that engages their
heart, mind, body and spirit.
• In the uniqueness and potential of each child and we recognize their right to
play.

Is there anything else that would add to a sense of Belonging for your child and your
family?

Rate how well you believe our centre is performing against each of the following (1 to
5 from poor to excellent):

In our Centre this can be seen as;

Staff supporting all children’s active engagement in their learning environment and the
natural world, regardless of needs and abilities.
1 2 3 4 5

Staff encouraging and supporting children’s learning through role modeling, guiding and
collaborating with children, families and colleagues to ensure a high quality service.
1 2 3 4 5

A family friendly environment which encourages open communication between families,
educators and children.
1 2 3 4 5

Staff having high expectations of children as competent learners and striving to build active
communities of engagement and inquiry.
1 2 3 4 5

The provision of continuity of routines and experiences which enables children to
successfully transition and belong.
1 2 3 4 5
**Being** – recognizes the significance of the here and now in children’s lives. The early childhood years are not solely preparation about the future but also about the present. E.Y.L.F (2009*)

We believe:
- We can support children to expand their thinking and enhance their desire to learn through play and exploration, spontaneity and risk taking.
- Children have a natural sense of wonder and curiosity and have the right to a vibrant and flexible learning environment which provides powerful resources and builds connections with the natural world.
- That responsive learning relationships are strengthened when staff and children learn together and share decisions.
- In valuing and respecting the individuality that children and their families bring to our centre.

Is there anything else that would add to a sense of Being for your child and your family?

**Rate how well you believe our centre is performing against each of the following (1 to 5 from poor to excellent).**

In our Centre this can been seen as:

Staff respectfully entering children's play to stimulate their thinking and build upon their existing knowledge and skills to enrich the learning experience.

1 2 3 4 5

A program which allows time and space for children to play and engage in both individual and collaborative pursuits.

1 2 3 4 5

Children taking an active part in their growth and learning thorough shared decision making.

1 2 3 4 5

Staff responding to children’s evolving ideas and interests to guide curriculum planning and challenge children’s thinking.

1 2 3 4 5

Staff using their knowledge of the interests and needs of individual children to guide their practice and empower learners.

1 2 3 4 5
Becoming – Reflects the process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow. E.Y.L.F. (2009)*

We believe:
• That children have a great capacity for learning, which when supported in Early Childhood will continue throughout their lives.
• That Staff should strive for continuous improvement in their professional knowledge and practice.
• That developing a sense of purpose and confidence in children supports their active participation in family and community life.

Is there anything else that would add to a sense of Becoming for your child and your family?

Rate how well you believe our centre is performing against each of the following (1 to 5 from poor to excellent).

In our Centre this can be seen as;

Staff providing positive learning experiences that support successful involvement for all children, to develop confident and independent learners.
1 2 3 4 5

A culture of learning and critical reflection which supports staff knowledge of individual children and guides and informs our practice.
1 2 3 4 5

Staff regularly using the curriculum documents (Respect, Reflect, Relate & Belonging, Becoming, Being), to implement a dynamic, vibrant program that reflects the growth and development of each child.
1 2 3 4 5

Children demonstrating a positive attitude towards challenges in their learning, which will prepare them for the next steps in life as happy, confident members of the community.
1 2 3 4 5

*This philosophy statement was developed in consultation with all stakeholders and with reference to Early Years Learning Framework (2009) and the Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics (2006).

Thank You for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

Staff & Governing Council 2013