

Golden Square Kindergarten

Educational Philosophy

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which our kindergarten stands – the **Dja Dja Wurrung people** – and honour the **Jaara Jaara peoples'** culture and traditions by embedding learning about Country in our everyday program. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

At Golden Square Kindergarten, we are committed to providing a high-quality early childhood program within a **safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment** that promotes each child's sense of **belonging, being, and becoming**, as guided by the *National and Victorian Early Years Learning Frameworks*.

We believe children are capable, curious learners who thrive in a nurturing, safe, and inclusive environment that celebrates individuality and supports each child to reach their full potential.

We believe all children are **competent, capable, and curious individuals**, shaped by their family, culture, and community. Through **play-based learning**, we foster creativity, confidence, and problem-solving skills. Open-ended, meaningful experiences support each child's developmental stage, learning disposition, and wellbeing.

We embrace **diversity and inclusion**, celebrating every child's individuality and cultural identity. Our **anti-bias approach** supports the rights of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with additional needs.

Golden Square Kindergarten maintains a **Child Safe Environment**, with zero tolerance for abuse. We are committed to the safety, equity, and empowerment of every child and are guided by robust child protection policies and procedures.

Our Program Includes:

- **Sunshine Circles:** Group-based play that builds children's social, emotional, and cognitive development.
- **Hey Warrior:** Supporting children to understand and manage anxiety.
- **Kimochis:** Using engaging characters to teach children how to identify, express, and regulate emotions.
- **You Can Do It!:** Promoting confidence, resilience, persistence, organisation, and getting along with others.

Our Educators:

Our approach is informed by the work of **Erik Erikson, Jean Piaget, and Lev Vygotsky**. We use **intentional and explicit teaching strategies** to scaffold children's learning and development, while supporting emotional intelligence, social skills, and self-regulation. We use group charters and the **RULER** approach to help ensure every child feels safe, respected, and happy.

Family & Community:

We recognise **families** as a child's first and most influential educators. We foster open, inclusive communication and meaningful family involvement to support each child's learning and a smooth transition to school.

We also value our **community connections**, supporting access, equity, and inclusion for all children. We nurture a sense of global citizenship and encourage children to engage with the wider world in socially responsible and caring ways.

Sustainability:

We embed **environmental sustainability** into our daily practices and curriculum. Through both teaching and modelling, we help children develop an understanding of their role in caring for the planet and all living things.

Our Philosophy:

Our philosophy is a **living document**, continuously shaped by reflection, community input, and evolving knowledge. We are committed to providing a learning environment where every child can grow, belong, and thrive.

References

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