



# DISCOVERY KIDS PHILOSOPHY

## PHILOSOPHY

Our Child Care Philosophy is based on developing a lifetime love of learning through the context of Catholic Education. Central to this philosophy is the belief that a child thrives when they are spiritually, emotionally and academically catered for. We believe that secure relationships with responsive and respectful adults provide a solid foundation for learning. With these positive relationships in place, children can develop the capacity for trust, confidence and independence that help them grow as students and people. Our Child Care program aims to support children's increasing interest in the outdoors, the Arts, and more. Our programs are consciously planned to include autonomy and agency, all encompassed within a positive and supportive atmosphere. We value the uniqueness of each child and acknowledge that all children are made in God's image and likeness (Genesis. 1:27), a precious and sacred gift from God, created as an individual with their own unique talents and abilities (CEO position statement, 2009). We nurture each child while working to identify developing areas of interest and exploration.

## IMAGE OF THE CHILD

We believe each child is rich in potential, strong, powerful and competent. We support this belief with the provision of an enriching, supportive and inclusive environment enabling the unique needs of each child to be met. We value the rights of children to make choices in their day and be rulers of their own learning. All children will be given the support and encouragement they need to reach their full potential.

## CURRICULUM

We believe in a flexible curriculum that will offer a diverse, stimulating and engaging range of experiences reflective of children, family and school community. We support this belief by providing children with multiple ways to learn both in the indoor and outdoor environments, allowing children to find meaningful connections and relationships in the environment. We respect and value children's curiosity and questions of wonder and awe. We encourage learning through intentional teaching and natural opportunities in each day. We value and endeavour to always include shared ideas and input to the curriculum from the children and their families.

## PARTNERSHIPS

We believe children learn best when strong collaborative relationships exist between the educators themselves as well as educators, children, their families and the school community. We recognise that collaborative relationships lead to strong partnerships,

We pride ourselves in the fact that we work in partnership with the Principal, and believe that this is essential to a successful transition for children to move from their school day to after school care. This partnership is one of our strengths. We are a part of the school and church community, a place children feel safe and cared for. Effective communication is priority at Discovery Kids. This is not only crucial amongst staff but also when communicating with families and the school. We believe children need opportunities across their day to explore, investigate and problem solve to build greater understanding of the world around them. We believe these opportunities enhance children's journey while they are developing greater self-esteem, play skills, social skills and build resilience. We support these beliefs by providing an environment that is engaging, orderly, and pastoral.

We support this belief by being available to authentically listen to children and parents questions and value their contributions to curriculum development. We see ourselves as partners in children's learning and co-explore the learning experiences and unique learning journey of each child.

## **EDUCATORS**

We provide a nurturing, safe and fun environment for all children where they are supported and cared for. We realise the importance of employing quality staff members and have an induction process so the children and parents can become familiar and comfortable with the people that will be caring for their children.

Discovery Kids prides itself on employing pastoral caregivers who aim to foster the values and teachings of Christ to all children in their care through providing sacred spaces, time for prayer and reflection. Our behaviour management plan, values and interactions are founded on the Catholic values of love, service, forgiveness and attentiveness. We believe in offering a nurturing play based learning environment, which gives children the opportunity to initiate play, direction and progress. We believe children are inherently curious and interested in the world around them and need diverse experiences to enhance and support their ongoing development. We provide a loving and supportive environment in which every child will feel valued and included. We recognise the significance of being the importance and awareness of the here and now of the children's lives.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

We believe the environment to be a critical aspect of children's learning and development. The environment we provide for children is a space in which children are able to safely explore a range of natural and produced materials and resources. We use recycled materials and include play experiences that will ensure children gain a better understanding of the need to re-use materials and save precious resources. We value and embrace contributions and suggestions to improve the environment from children and families.

## **VISION:**

- Our vision is to provide a seamless Catholic care program in Catholic schools.
- Discovery Kids staff strive to be examples of Catholics living in a modern world.
- Discovery Kids acknowledges that all children are made in Gods' image and likeness (Genesis. 1:27), a precious and sacred gift from God, created as an individual with their own unique talents and abilities (CEO position statement, 2009).
- To provide a new, inspirational and pastoral program that follows on from the values, beliefs and traditions inbuilt into Catholic schools, equipping the children in our care with the knowledge, skills, hope and optimism to live meaningful lives and shape and enrich the world around them.
- We strive to create an engaging, stimulating and nurturing environment (EYLF, 2009; NQS, QA3, 2013), as this is where children learn best.

## **MISSION:**

To work in collaboration with Catholic schools in providing a seamless transition from school to Discovery Kids by providing a program that is founded on the values and principles of Christ.