

Our Preschool Philosophy

At Moorak Preschool, we are committed to fostering and nurturing an **inclusive environment** where strong **reciprocal relationships** between children, families, educators, and the community are at the heart of our philosophy. We believe that these relationships are foundational to creating a **sense of belonging** and connectedness, which are essential for the **holistic** development of every child.

We prioritise building and maintaining strong, respectful, and reciprocal **relationships** with children, their families, and the wider community. We recognise that families are the first and most influential teachers of their children, and we value their insights and contributions. By **working collaboratively**, we create a supportive network that enhances each child's learning journey.

We strive to create an environment where every child feels **valued, respected, and included**. A strong sense of belonging is cultivated through **inclusive practices** that celebrate diversity and promote equity. We believe that when children feel they belong, they are more likely to engage deeply in their learning and develop positive relationships.

We recognise and foster the benefits that being a school-based preschool affords. Our strong connections with the **wider school community** enable us to offer extended transition programs that support children in feeling confident and prepared for the next stage of their educational journey. This continuity helps to foster a sense of security and belonging.

Our approach to teaching and learning is grounded in **playful pedagogies** that support the development of literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills. We believe that play is the most powerful and effective way to engage in learning, and we design experiences that are engaging, meaningful, and developmentally appropriate. Through play, children explore, experiment, and make sense of the world around them.

We are committed to fostering a connection to **nature** and promoting **sustainable practices**. Our learning environments provide opportunities for children to engage with the natural world, develop an appreciation for the environment, and learn about sustainability. We believe that these experiences are crucial for developing a sense of responsibility and stewardship.

We cultivate an **inquiry culture** where children and educators co-research and engage in **sustained shared thinking**. We value children's thinking, theories, and wonderings, and we encourage them to ask questions, explore ideas, and build upon the perspectives of others. Educators act as co-learners, guiding and supporting children in their inquiries.

Our **learning environments** are designed to be responsive, flexible, and supportive of deep engagement in learning. We create spaces that are inviting, stimulating, and adaptable to the needs and interests of the children. These environments encourage exploration, creativity, and collaboration.

We hold a **holistic and strength-based image of children**, recognising their unique abilities, interests, and potential. Our programs are informed by a comprehensive understanding of all areas of development, and we strive to support each child's growth in a balanced and integrated manner. Inclusion is at the core of our philosophy. We are committed to creating an environment where all children, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds, can participate fully and meaningfully. Our practices are designed to ensure that every child feels valued and supported.

We engage in ongoing **critical reflection** to continuously improve our practices and ensure that we are meeting the needs of all children and families. By reflecting on our work, we strive to be responsive, innovative, and effective in our pedagogical approaches. We critically reflect within our own preschool team, with and alongside other preschool leaders, and through professional learning opportunities with experts in early childhood education.

At Moorak Preschool, we are dedicated to creating a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive learning community where every child can thrive.