

Philosophy : Mt Compass Preschool

At Mt Compass Preschool we want children to anticipate coming to a place where they find and create challenges, imagine possibilities, feel connected, develop significant relationships, and form a strong sense of who they are and what they are capable of.

We want children, families and educators to remember Mt Compass Preschool fondly, as a place that welcomed them, allowed them to be and helped them to become.

We believe:

1. **Families** play an ongoing and central role in children's learning and development.
2. **Children learn through play**, interaction with other children, adults and natural and made environments. This includes learning in the social, emotional, physical and cognitive domains.
3. **Relationships** are central to learning.
4. Learning is about **growth** not just achievement.
5. Developing **dispositions** (curiosity, creativity, persistence etc.) enables children to participate in and gain from learning.
6. Developing **sustainable practices** and habits with children will help protect the future of the natural environment.

Therefore we:

- Promote each child's sense of well-being and learning through a range of experiences, opportunities & resources that build on what children already know, think, feel, imagine and can do.
- Strive to empower children by using their thoughts, ideas and curiosity to shape learning environments
- Recognise, acknowledge and build on children's own sense of achievement
- Value the diversity amongst families in our community and strive to make connections between family and kindergarten life.
- Develop relationships with all families through open and constructive communication; empathy and responsiveness to family needs; flexibility; and through sharing the day-to-day stories of children and childhood.
- Provide opportunities for families to be involved in and contribute to preschool life.
- Create play-full learning environments that are stimulating, challenging, flexible, inclusive, creative, multisensory and interactive.
- Develop and build on children's connection with the natural environment.
- Actively promote the development of learning dispositions within the Centre.
- Maintain a strong culture of reflective practice and a commitment to continuous improvement with all staff (supported by the Early Years Learning Framework)
- Use observation as an assessment, planning and evaluation tool (Respect, Reflect, Relate document)