

Noah Pre-Prep Centre Philosophy and Foundations for Practice

At the Noah Centre, we believe that children have the right to a happy, fun-filled childhood in which they can grow and develop at their own rate, being able to express themselves creatively, growing in confidence, self-esteem and decision-making skills. We seek to see each child reach their God-given potential, being assured of God's love for them and His plan for their salvation and life within the Body of Christ. We seek to create a warm, relaxed and welcoming environment in which every child will feel safe, secure and valued.

We acknowledge Australia's Indigenous peoples and the cultural diversity within our community. All children come to Pre-Prep with unique social and cultural backgrounds and regardless of these backgrounds each child should be treated with respect. At all times, children's dignity and privacy will be protected. They will be respected and listened to, their ideas and contributions valued and incorporated into the daily program in the Centre. We believe the use of modelling is the most effective teaching strategy a teacher can use. Children will learn to respect themselves and others through having this modelled for them by all staff on a daily basis.

Each child will be actively engaged in the program through focused areas of common and individual interests. On a daily basis, the group will sit together to share ideas and interests so that together we can learn and plan for new and exciting play and learning experiences. A balance between child initiated and teacher initiated learning will exist. Planning will consider children's family and cultural backgrounds, the age and developmental stage of the children in the group, their physical and intellectual abilities, prior knowledge, experiences and interests. Development of the whole child will be a priority including the physical, personal, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive aspects of each individual.

Play must be central to the Pre-Prep program. Through play, the children will experience enjoyment and fun. Development of social skills is a priority in the Pre-Prep year and through their play children will learn to negotiate and work with others, to take turns, share and resolve conflict. Extended periods of time will be dedicated to play in the indoor and outdoor environments on a daily basis.

Families are the primary source of upbringing, protection and development of children. Each child's family provides a rich source of information about them and they will be encouraged to work in partnership with educators in the centre in order to see children flourish.

"Children thrive when families and educators work together in partnership to support young children's learning." P9 EYLF

Families will be encouraged to contribute ideas to the program, to set goals for their child and to add to their child's learning stories. "Learning Journey Portfolios" will be accessible to families at all times. A PowerPoint outlining the day's happenings will be sent home each day to keep families informed and involved in the children's learning and experiences. An open door policy will exist and carers will be encouraged to participate in a "Stay and Play" roster.

Constant critical reflection of practice and the program is needed to adequately cater for the needs of all children and to see adaptation and improvement that will provide the best possible outcomes for all. Team members will be involved in daily reflection. The sharing of ideas about the wellbeing and development of children as well as how the program needs to change, will occur on a regular basis. Careful consideration of feedback from parents, colleagues and the children themselves will be given.

The Noah Centre is part of the wider Calvary Christian College community. Close links will be encouraged including partnership with specialist teachers in Music, Physical Education, Spanish and Library. Connections to the Junior School take place during the school year which includes incursions to the "Veggie Patch", "Happy Hens" and Library. In Term 4, they attend Assembly and visit the Prep classes. This prepares children for an easy transition to Prep the following year.

At the Noah Centre, we will seek to deliver a distinctively different Pre-Prep program where children receive rich education and quality care, working within the complementary frameworks of the play-based Early Years Learning Framework and the inquiry-based International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. These frameworks will be delivered in the light of a Christian worldview with the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines providing specific guidance for the learning and development of children in the Kindergarten year.