



# SUTHERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

*God said, "I have loved you with an everlasting love," Jeremiah 31: 3*

## Philosophy

Sutherland Presbyterian Church Preschool is a ministry of the Sutherland Presbyterian Church, where we honour our Saviour Jesus Christ by loving and serving families in our community.

We also acknowledge the indigenous people of this country, and the people of the land on which we stand, the Dharawal People. We believe in the right of indigenous families to maintain their culture, identity and language as well as the right of indigenous children to access a full and culturally appropriate education program. To achieve this we will work in partnership with families to achieve the best outcomes for their child.

Our practices will be guided by the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), National Quality Framework (NQF), which comprises *Belonging, Being, Becoming* and its *Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes*.

The idea of *belonging*: Our aim is to provide young children with a gentle, relaxed, family like environment where they feel safe, secure and able to grow.

The idea of *being*: We believe each child is a unique gift from God, with his or her own personality, life experiences, learning styles, language and cultural background. Young children are still developing their sense of self and have the right to be who they are at this point in time.

The idea of *becoming*: We believe it is the right of every child to have access to high quality early education, as this is a major factor in future health and success. We support the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (1990) which states that "all children have the right to an education that lays a foundation for the rest of their lives, maximises their ability, and respects their family, culture and other identities and languages."

We believe that working in partnership with families will lead to the best outcomes for children. We recognise that children come into the preschool environment with their own life story and it is our responsibility to work with children and families to continue growing that story.

We believe that children learn through hands-on experiences (play-based learning) and by being involved in decision making about their own learning. The social nature of learning means that many children learn best from one another and through teamwork with other children, educators and members of our community. Children are also encouraged to become responsible members of both the preschool and the wider community with an understanding of fundamental aspects of our society. Environmental sustainability is embedded into our learning program through daily practice and education for children, families, educators and community.

We believe that learning is a lifelong journey beginning from birth which continues right through a child's life. Our aim is for children to develop emotional strength, dispositions for learning, academic knowledge, body strength and the ability to connect and communicate with others, which will provide each child with the skills they need for lifelong health, learning and success.

*Last updated Oct, 2024, through review with children, families, educators and the preschool management committee.*