

Statement of PHILOSOPHY

Jasmine Preschool is a warm, caring and family-oriented centre that is committed to providing exceptional care and education to every child in a loving environment and to contribute to meaningful and cherished memories for them and their families in their early years.

Since 1991, Jasmine Preschool has been supporting families in the Hawkesbury with pride, honouring and preserving our culture and heritage across generations. It always has and always will start with our relationships-

Caring Hearts, Growing Minds

**We're for the Magic of Childhood-** Our days are full of fun, laughter, and learning, where children are free to be children. In these early years, we seek to provide the foundations that will shape a child's future health, happiness, learning, and development. We strive to provide an inclusive, kind, and supportive environment where children feel loved and safe to connect, play, and discover the wonder and magic of childhood.

"Children jumping in puddles and playing with paint brings back my childhood joy. Outdoor exploration and messy play provide valuable learning experiences all children should have." Eliza (Educator)

**We're for Safety-** We prioritize children's safety and well-being in our care, taking steps to prevent accidents, illnesses, and injuries, and having emergency plans in place. A secure environment promotes children's healthy development and allows them to explore, learn, and grow. Our nurturing environment supports children's learning and growth, providing reassurance for parents.

"We provide opportunities for age-appropriate play and exploration that encourage physical activity, creativity, and problem-solving while minimizing risks." Andrew and Bonnie (Approved Providers)

We're for Lifelong Learning – Children are natural learners with an innate curiosity to explore their environment. At our Preschool, we strive to inspire, share, and learn alongside children, embracing the wonder and beauty of the world. We seize opportunities for teachable moments to help our little learners reach their individual goals through inquiry-based learning. Our play-based curriculum is designed to cultivate a love of learning and development through enriching environments that feel safe and support exploration, comprehension, and risk-taking. This approach fosters resilience, confidence, and sense of self, laying the foundation for a bright future. Through our curriculum and learning environments, we strive to equip children with the tools they need to succeed in life. Our School Readiness Program, which begins as soon as a child joins us, no matter what their age, prepares children for a seamless transition to primary school and beyond.

"My hope for my children is to develop a strong sense of self, a sense of belonging, and a confidence that will carry them through life. I want them to feel proud of their achievements, giving things their all and never being afraid to step out of their comfort zone". (Preschool Parent)

## We're for Children -

We recognize and value our responsibility to act with professional integrity as advocates on behalf of children. We also recognize the rights of children and their voices to make decisions and have input into their world. We strive to provide a safe, respectful, and compassionate environment that recognizes children as individuals with valuable views and interests, ensuring that they feel noticed, heard, and understood. Our small group learning, utilizing the Key Educator approach, allows for a tailored, child-focused program. Educators use this approach to build strong connections with their specific group of children and their families. This yields a deep understanding of each family's uniqueness and ensures that we nurture and respond to each child's holistic development and learning.

'I love coming to Preschool and seeing my teachers'. Lola (Butterflies Room)

**We're for families -** Children thrive when families and educators work together in partnership. This relationship is just as important to us as our connection with children. Families are a child's first and most influential teacher, and as an extension of the family tribe, we strive to support consistency between home and preschool, valuing family involvement and seeking to be flexible and responsive to their suggestions and input. We welcome truthful, gentle, and helpful conversations with families regarding the needs and interests of their child.

"We want preschool to be part of our village that nurtures the kids to enrich their lives". Preschool Parent (2023 Parent Survey)

**We're for Community**- We believe that a child's understanding of community is crucial for their development and well-being. It helps them recognize and appreciate the diversity of people and cultures around them and develop empathy and social skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Understanding community fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility, as children learn that they are part of a larger group that depends on mutual support and cooperation. Moreover, a strong sense of community can contribute to a child's overall sense of safety and security, as they learn that there are people and resources they can turn to in times of need. Educators can benefit from understanding the community experiences of children and families, as it can help create relevant links between our preschool and the wider community. It can also lead to more meaningful learning opportunities and foster positive relationships while promoting inclusivity.

**We're for Inclusion –** We believe culture and diversity are important aspects of our community. We value and respect each member and aim to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all. We incorporate culture, family values, and inclusive perspectives that allow us to meet the individual needs of all children. We recognise everyone has varying needs and abilities. Through the expertise of our educators, we offer patience, time, and space, as well as a supportive environment to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in all aspects of our preschool and program.

We recognise the Dharug people and their traditional lands upon which we play and learn. We seek to gather information and educate ourselves about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and perspectives and incorporate these within our preschool. We stand in solidarity with First Nations peoples in their right to a fair and equal future.

"We want to create an environment where children feel safe to be, grow and flourish into their own being and have access to education and equal opportunities." Samara (Centre Manager)

**We're for Knowledge and Growth-** We recognize that our educators' experience and knowledge are important factors in achieving a high-quality standard of education and care. Educators are supported to continuously reflect on and extend their own professional knowledge and pedagogical practice through professional inquiry, reflective practices, and professional development. We endeavour to inspire and nurture the professionalization of educators. We believe that everyone has the potential to be a leader, and we provide opportunities for educators to shine through their passions and life learnings. We are committed to developing and empowering our team to become leaders in the profession of early childhood education.

We're for a Better Future – We recognize the impact we have on our environment and seek to instil in each child an appreciation for nature and its resources. We educate and empower children and families to take responsibility for the future of our world. Education, combined with action, is crucial for a healthy and happy planet. We take pride in promoting sustainability and preserving the natural world, as we believe that children are the key to a better future.