



Como Park Parent Philosophy Statement

This agreement is between, families and educators, who make up Como Park Childcare & Kindergarten Community. At Como Park we provide emergent programs that incorporate both the indoor and outdoor environments and provide children with opportunities to explore, create and discover as they engage in many forms of play that include risk taking, messy play, incursions and excursions. Belonging, Being and Becoming is fundamental to the vision for children's learning in the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) along with the Victorian Early Years Learning Framework. This philosophy compliments our service philosophy and makes it clear that all children regardless of their abilities, the family constellation to which they belong, or the community in which that family resides, have a right to simply belong, be and become" (Richardson, 2011, p.6)

At Como Park we see our families as part of our team working together to create a safe, secure, friendly and fun learning environment for our children. Together we will communicate our thoughts and ideas to ensure we meet the needs and interests of the children. Collaboration amongst parents, educators and support professionals, based on mutual trust and respect, is a cornerstone of high quality early childhood programs. Children grow, learn and thrive together in partnership. This requires educators to acknowledge and utilize parents' expert knowledge about their child, and promote open communication, collaboration and shared decision making.

Como Park takes pride in providing a warm, friendly, homely centre where families are welcome and respected. Families will feel the warmth upon their first visit to tour our unique centre and when commencing the educators are dedicated to continuing the feeling allowing families to leave their children knowing they are safe and secure.

Below is a list of some of the things you will see occurring as part of the program at Como Park Childcare & Kindergarten. Our team of professional educators strongly believe that this type of program strongly supports children's learning and development, fostering children's sense of belonging and autonomy.

- Our centre curriculum is based on children learning through play and this is promoted by our indoor/outdoor program available all year round which allows the children to make choices and to explore and experiment with their environment, which is why we

ask families to ensure that children are appropriately dressed for each day with accessories such as coats, beanies and spare clothes etc. Our team of educators will assess the outdoor weather conditions and make informed decisions in extreme weather.

- Sunscreen is provided for children and applied when the UV is above 3. Families are welcome to bring in their own sunscreen if preferred, a form will be completed to gain permission for this. Families are also asked to complete the first sunscreen application upon arrival or before arriving at the centre
- At Como Park we provide a sustainable environment and therefore children are involved in many environmental practices including caring for the chickens, children participate in planting/growing vegetables and herbs in our garden beds and the produce is collected by the children and included in the centre menu.
- The centre recycles water through our water tank which collects rain water for the children to use in our dirt/mud kitchen. This is a popular area where the children engage in messy play, dirt and water make great mud pies. In this area we have recycled pots, pans and kitchen utensils where the children can experiment, use their math skills to create the right consistency for a mud pie. This is an area where the children can feel free, smocks are provided but the messy play is a wonderful way to learn.
- Water play is promoted and the children can tip and pour and feel relaxed and soothed.
- The outdoor environment is an area for the children to explore and experiment, but the children also learn to care for their environment and to recycle rather than throw away
- Other areas where recycling occurs is in our art/craft area where families are encouraged to provide “junk” for the children to create and explore. Recycling can be found in the block area with families providing offcuts of wood, cardboard and fabric where the children can create cubbies, cities, cars or boats.
- As part of our emergent program meal times are progressive, allowing children to make choices about their needs and wellbeing. Educators will endeavor to encourage all children to eat their meals provided during progressive meal times. We provide a fruit/ vegetable bowl throughout the day and this is offered at the end of the day for a late snack.
- All children are offered a “Rest Time” or “down time” during the day, this is an opportunity for children to sleep / rest/ be mindful and recharge their bodies. Educators will work in partnership with families to accommodate individual needs. Our Kinder community offers quiet time for children to sit and do an individual activity for 30mins- an hour if they no longer rest on a bed.
- Como Park values our families and treats everyone equally and we expect all families to treat all families with equal respect. All cultures are welcome and

supported at the centre. Inclusion is about diversity and creating an environment in which all children can participate and succeed. Acceptance of and knowledge about diversity is fundamental to effective inclusive practices. This may sometimes require a change of attitude or “mindset”. To do this all stakeholders, educators and parents must reflect on their own prejudices, and reflect on what they may need to do to undertake a more positive approach. Inclusive practice lays the foundation for each child’s participation within a diverse community.

- Our Open door policy ensures our families feel important and happy to leave their child/ren in our care and encourages families to contribute to the program and provide feedback about the centre.

We look forward to being a part of your child’s learning journey and working with your family.

•Parent name _____

•Signed by parents_____

•Signed by Director on behalf of the educator team_____