

Practice Principles

Introduction

The Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework's ([VEYLDF] DET 2011) highlights eight practice principles based on contemporary international evidence about the best ways to support children's learning and development. We use these practice principles to inform, support & inspire our daily interactions with the children, their families and the wider community. They are interrelated and designed to inform each other;



- Reflective Practice
- Partnerships with Families
- High Expectations for Every Child
- Respectful Relationships and Responsive Engagement
- Equity & Diversity
- Assessment for Learning & Development
- Integrating Learning & Teaching Approaches
- Partnerships with Professionals

Further to the VEYLDF's (DET 2011) practice principles, Little Groms Early Learning embraces a set of additional individual practice principles related solely and directly to the early childhood education and care culture we have built and continue to build and improve within our service. Through collaboration with our Educators, Children, their Families and our Community, we have outlined 4 practice principles that we feel set us apart from the early childhood industry. We endeavour to make an outstanding commitment in the following areas that combine to create 'Little Groms Practice Principles'.

Little Groms Additional Practice Principles

Sense of Community

- Embracing the culture and way of life of Torquay and surrounds, integrating this into our program and mirroring this in our environment.
- Building and maintaining trusting and respectful reciprocal relationships with families and the wider community.

Embracing the environmental opportunities that our local community offers, nature reserves, parks, beaches, sporting precincts & local business, and integrating these into our educational program and pedagogical approach.

- Focusing on parent, family & community feedback, input and participation in all aspects of service delivery.

Holistic Healthy Lifestyles

- Education based around, and hands-on experience with; purchasing, preparing and consuming locally sourced organic and raw produce.
- Providing non-packaged or processed snacks including raw treats, organic fruit and vegetables and smoothies on a daily basis.

- Integrating a variety and regular mindfulness, Yoga & physical activity sessions to embrace and promote the importance of a healthy mind, body & spirit.

Creative Arts

- Provide an Atelier for all children to access freely. An Atelier is an art studio where children are able to gather to work on creative art experiences under the supervision of a principle master; our qualified and registered *Steiner* inspired Art Teacher, Shae.
- Providing ample opportunity for the children to creatively express their ideas, thoughts and feelings
- Support, guide and inspire individual and group collaboration projects.
- Educate and inspire children's creative minds through the artistic greats throughout history
- Embrace and provide opportunities for the expressive arts; drama, music & dance within our educational program and environment.
- Strong emphasis on upcycling, recycling, reusing & repurposing within creative art projects and creations.

ChildSafe Culture

- Regular review and revisit of ChildSafe Standards and service expectations within these.
- Ongoing study and learning opportunities to further knowledge and to inform practice.
- Adopting and embedding an organisational culture of ChildSafe Standards throughout service delivery.

Further information regarding the VEYLDF and its eight practice principles can be accessed within the foyer or online at;

- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/edcare/veyldframework.pdf>

Further underpinning resources and evidence that supports Little Groms Early Learning additional 5 Practice Principles;

Sense of Community;

- <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/sites/default/files/public/Belonging-and-connectedness.pdf>

Holistic Healthy Lifestyles;

- <http://www.echr.edu.au/docs/default-source/resources/ipsp/promoting-healthy-eating-in-education-and-care-services.pdf?sfvrsn=12>

Creative Arts;

- <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1223&context=etd>

ChildSafe;

- http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/EarlyChildhood_Guidance.pdf