

Our Philosophy

St Joseph's Preschool

Belonging

We believe children experience and explore:

- when they have opportunities to care for and respect natural and constructed environments
- when they have opportunities to feel important and make contributions to our Preschool
- when children and adults play and learn together
- when they feel safe and develop a sense of emotional and physical wellbeing
- when they develop a sense of identity as individuals and as part of a group and the community

St Joseph's Preschool educators promote **Belonging** when they:

- build positive, caring and respectful relationships with children and their families
- involve children in planning and decision making
- create an environment that offers predictability, security and safety to take risks
- provide a range of restful and active experiences and support children to make appropriate decisions regarding participation
- plan for individual, small group and whole group experiences in an inclusive environment
- model respect, care and appreciation for natural and constructed environments

Being

We believe children experience and explore...

- when their ideas are listened to and respected
- when they feel it is fun to make discoveries
- when their spirituality is enhanced through their innate curiosity and exploration
- when they express their wonder through creative expression, play and interaction with others
- when they feel empowered to initiate and act out their plans

St Joseph's Preschool educators promote **Being** when they:

- listen to children's ideas and support them to take action
- value the now in children's lives and see that Preschool is not just preparation for school
- provide time for children to explore and discover within their own rhythm of learning
- share in the joy of children's discoveries and sense of wonder
- actively engage families in children's learning

Becoming

We believe children experience and explore...

- when their physical skills are challenged and they learn to manage risk
- when they have opportunities to use the environment in sustainable ways
- when their cognitive understandings are developed and extended through discovery, observing, noticing and responding to change in the environment
- when they develop a sense of satisfaction about learning through their growing independence and developing fine and gross motor skills
- when they develop "an appreciation of creation as a gift, their relationship with it and their responsibility as co-creators for its future" (*On Holy Ground – An Ecological Vision for Catholic Education in South Australia, p.5*)

St Joseph's Preschool educators promote **Becoming** when they:

- embed sustainable practices into daily routines
- provide a wide range of tools, materials and experiences to resource children's fine and gross motor skills
- encourage children to use language (such as English, home languages, numeracy, drawing) to describe and explain their ideas
- reflect with children on what and how they have learned
- provide opportunities for children to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and dispositions through multiple pathways