



Mater Dei Early Childhood Education

Welcome to Mater Dei Preschool

The **Mater Dei Preschool** team acknowledges and pays respect to the **Dharawal** people who are the Traditional Custodians of Country and the First People of the land on which we stand today. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging of the **Dharawal** nation.

Our Philosophy

Mater Dei Preschool is founded on the values, beliefs, principles and ideologies that are central to Mater Dei including:

- Peace
- Welcome
- Service
- Hospitality, and
- Stewardship.

Mater Dei Preschool is established on the belief that all children including children with profound, severe, moderate and mild developmental delay and/or disability are children first and foremost therefore each and every child:

- is rich in possibilities and potential
- has the right to determine their own life as they grow and develop
- has the right to receive appropriate support and guidance wherever and whenever it is required
- has the right to be included in their local community
- has the right to make safe choices as they grow and develop and to accept responsibility for their choices
- has the right to develop appropriate safe relationships, and
- has the right to participate in quality learning experiences that are personalised and based on their age, stage of development, interest, talents, assessed ability and needs and collaboratively-determined goals.

Moreover, **Mater Dei Preschool** commits to the following:

- parents/guardians, families and advocates are the primary educators of their children
- each and every child's parents/guardians, family and advocates are unique and will be empowered to manage their own lives and to make decisions on behalf of their child
- the education of children is augmented when parent/guardians, families, advocates and **Mater Dei Preschool** work cooperatively and collaboratively to maximise the choices and opportunities available to each and every child, and
- our educational programs are reflective of emergent curriculum and adhere to the guidelines set by the **National Quality Framework**, the **National Quality Standard** and the **Early Years Learning Framework**.

Mater Dei Preschool embraces the **Early Years Learning Framework** expectations through the five Learning Outcomes:

- *Children have a strong sense of identity*
- *Children are connected with and contribute to their world*
- *Children have a strong sense of wellbeing*
- *Children are confident and involved learners, and*
- *Children are effective communicators.*

Furthermore, **Mater Dei Preschool** will:

- embrace and promote the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** including:
 - **Article 23:** *Children who have any kind of disability should receive special care and support so they can live a full and independent life.*
 - **Article 28:** *Children have the right to an education.*
 - **Article 29:** *Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.*
- address the holistic needs of each and every child, their parents/guardians, family and advocates
- be accessible and welcoming for children who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- be accessible and welcoming for children from diverse cultures and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities
- be accessible and welcoming for children from all religious and non-religious beliefs
- be accessible and welcoming for children from all socio-economic environments, and
- be accessible and welcoming for children from all family and/or carer cohorts and combinations.

In addition, **Mater Dei Preschool** believes in nurturing our planet, flora and fauna and accepting our responsibility to sustain our environment for future generations.

Mater Dei Preschool will demonstrate:

- the inclusion and participation of each child
- family-centred practices that build relationships based on collaborative values, principles, attitudes and beliefs
- support for each family's choice, participation and collaborative decision-making in the goals and outcomes to be included in their child's **Individual Learning Plan**
- the preparation and implementation of integrated, flexible and responsive programs
- an understanding of each child's stewardship of the world in which they live
- respectful, reciprocal partnerships with each child's parents/guardians, family and advocates, local **Early Childhood Education Centres**, **Mater Dei School** and the wider community, and
- the technical quality that enhances **Mater Dei Preschool** educators' expertise that is utilised to benefit our children, their parents/guardians, families and advocates.

Mater Dei Preschool children, their parents/guardians, families and advocates may request TTY services at any time including the provision of an interpreter, translator or transcriber who will be provided by **Mater Dei Preschool** without cost to the child's parents/guardians, families and advocates.