



Next Steps Kindy Philosophy

OUR MISSION

To create a place where children know they are loved and valued by God and are empowered to explore and learn.

OUR VISION

To be a leader in Christian, Early Years Education. Each child will leave Next Steps Kindy knowing that they are uniquely valued by God, with a lifelong love of learning.

OUR VALUES

We look to the Christian values that influence our behaviours and form our culture – Faith, Learning, Excellence, Character and Community. We partner with families and churches in the development of these values.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Next Steps Kindy is a ministry of Nexus Church which provides high quality, Christ-centred, Early Years education. We recognise that each child is created by God and individually valuable. The Kindy staff care for and educate children in a safe, secure and engaging environment from a Christian world view.

At Next Steps Kindy, we employ practices and programming which provide a purposeful learning environment that enhances, stimulates and challenges individual children's interests and abilities. We view and value our environment, both natural and constructed as the third teacher. We believe children learn through thoughtful and purposeful play. We value individuals, acknowledging their uniqueness and differences in personality and learning style. We celebrate childhood as a valued part of life, where children develop attitudes, dispositions and skills needed for future learning. We nurture an appreciation for God's creation through environmentally sustainable practices and fostering an awareness of our responsibility in caring for the environment.

Relationships are a cornerstone to the diverse community of Next Steps Kindy. Relationships with God, family, educators, peers and the wider community create a positive learning environment.

In our relationships with children, we will:

- Establish relationships where children feel safe physically and emotionally
- Create an environment where children can take risks, make choices and decisions, express opinions and display initiative, be flexible and resilient which are key dispositions for life
- Provide a program where children are able to learn through play, child-lead discovery, exploration and observation
- Promote children's well-being through the development of gratitude, resilience, and confidence.
- Model and encourage care, empathy and respect to enable children to develop relationships with peers
- Implement inclusive practices to support the learning and development of all children
- Respect all children by valuing their God given potential.

In our relationships with families, we will:

- Respect the family as the child's first teacher and value their input
- Encourage family involvement in their children's learning and development
- Develop and maintain genuine, positive relationships based on trust, respect and communication
- Acknowledge each family's culture, background and the value that it adds to our community
- Support families well-being by providing help when needed
- Connect children and families with each other.

In our relationships as staff, we will:

- Value the diversity of all team members and their contribution to the program
- Grow and learn together as part of a professional community
- Commit to continuous quality improvement through reflective practice
- Support each other's ongoing professional, personal and spiritual development
- Build genuine relationships on trust, respect and a sense of fun.

In our relationships with the wider community, we will:

- Advocate for the value of children in our society
- Create children's sense of belonging through relationships with Northside Christian College and the Nexus Church community
- Form new relationships with families from the wider community through the use of shared facilities
- Connect families with local child and family support services
- Instil a respect for all cultures, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.