

Jean Horan Kindergarten

PHILOSOPHY

Our Vision

JHK constantly aims for excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care. We strive towards a high level of professionalism and family involvement in an inclusive and caring environment.

Our Beliefs

At JHK we believe each child is unique, developing at his or her own rate and with individual interests, strengths and needs. Our program is strengths based and each child's agency ('voice') is promoted enabling them to make a range of choices and decisions. We believe the health, safety and wellbeing of each child is paramount. Our curriculum demonstrates respect, caring and understanding for all children and Staff.

At JHK we believe that children:

- Have the right to feel safe, secure and happy
- Are all competent and capable learners.
- Learn best through PLAY in an environment rich in oral language and the foundation skills of Literacy and Numeracy
- Learn best when parents and staff work in partnership
- Require opportunities that meet their individual needs and interests in order to develop to their full potential
- Need programs that foster self-esteem and responsibility for themselves, others and the environment
- Have the right to have family and cultural values respected
- Benefit from Nature Play and interacting with natural materials

Your Child's Development

JHK offers a developmentally appropriate curriculum 'Belonging, Being and Becoming' which focuses on the individual child's strengths, interests and prior experiences. This is an Australia-wide framework used by educators to promote the best learning and developmental outcomes for children. It has a strong emphasis on play-based learning. Research says that play is the best vehicle for young children's learning and provides the most stimuli for brain development. As a priority we believe feeling safe and secure is essential to the foundation of children's learning and wellbeing at our Kindergarten. We aim to develop strong relationships with the children and their families. Our programs are respectful and embrace the inclusion of diversity, including culture, gender and additional needs.

Health and Safety

Our Centre is committed to the health and safety of every child in our care from the policies and procedures we follow to the supervision and curriculum we provide.

Health - We provide a safe and hygienic environment that promotes the health and active participation of children and Staff. We have a strong healthy eating and active play emphasis. As a general principle children and adults should not come to the Centre unless they are well and able to cope adequately with the normal daily routines and activities.

Safety - Our Staff provide a safe environment in which children can develop to their full potential.

Staff Team

One of the most important assets at JHK is our caring, experienced and enthusiastic Staff team. We are committed to professional and personal Staff development which we believe is integral to providing a high quality service. Our policies reflect a commitment to the safety and protection of children. All Staff and Volunteers working with children at JHK undergo a criminal history screening. Teachers hold First Aid and Child-Safe Environment certification.

Jean Horan Kindergarten

Our Centre

Jean Horan Flinders Park Kindergarten (JHK) was established in 1953.

We are a government funded preschool, part of the South Australian Department for Education and Child Development (DECD).

JHK is staffed by fully qualified Early Childhood trained Teachers and Early Childhood Workers (ECW's).

Our Kindergarten offers high quality early childhood programs.

Staff work in partnership with families to provide children with a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which to grow and learn.

Our Environment

JHK is located in a beautiful community park setting and has a reputation for providing an inclusive and welcoming environment. We have spacious indoor and outdoor areas that inspire and consolidate **'hands on'** learning. Our extensive playground has space to run, a large sandpit area, swings, challenging climbing equipment and places to garden.

The grounds have been developed to meet the needs of preschool children with authentic challenges and stimulation, as well as beautiful trees that provide plenty of shade in summer, areas for both active play and quiet relaxation. At JHK we strive to inspire an appreciation of the beauty of nature and a love of the outdoors in the lives of our children and families, giving them the foundation to become aware and responsible for their local and global environment. We have a wide shady veranda which can be used in all weather. Our indoor areas are well appointed and resourced with appropriate equipment. We also have a library where children can borrow books and take home Literacy Kits. Staff and parents ensure the building and grounds are safe and secure, well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing to promote a high standard of care. There is plenty of car parking available in the quiet residential streets that surround us.

Play Based Program

Children enjoy our excellent resources and stimulating play based program. Educators plan the curriculum using the Australian Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) called **'Belonging, Being and Becoming'**. We use the **National Quality Standards (NQS)**, DECD **'Implementation Guidelines for Indicators of Preschool Numeracy and Literacy'** and **'Respect, Reflect, Relate'** (RRR) to ensure an improvement cycle and reflective practice.

Educators

Our Staff provide an environment and programs to meet the diverse needs of children accessing our service. Our Educators value and encourage individuality of all children including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those of Australian Indigenous descent, and children with special needs. Bilingual and Support Staff are arranged through DECD on a needs basis to assist children and families settling in. We encourage and support links within our community.

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