



Blinkbonnie House Philosophy Statement

At Blinkbonnie House we celebrate and embrace the natural wonder of children's curious minds and endeavour to cultivate a life-long interest in learning. Our facilities are built with a Reggio Emilia approach, influencing design elements such as natural light, open plan learning spaces and incorporates a kitchen where science and cooking experiences occur.

We believe that children learn best through play and exploration where they feel safe and secure and feel free to express themselves, take risks, challenge themselves, problem solve, explore, build resilience and persistence.

We affirm each child's sense of wonder, discovery and natural curiosity and provide an environment that allows for rich play experiences that stimulate each child's development. Experienced teachers create an atmosphere that welcomes parents and inspires students.

Our image of the child underpins all that we do at Blinkbonnie House. It informs our decisions about programs, materials, staffing, space and the allocation of time.

- We believe that children are unique and rich in potential.
- They are active participants who construct knowledge and create theories about their world.
- We recognise that children have rights and are capable of being responsible for themselves.
- They can make decisions about how they respond to situations.
- Children move through the world with wonder and awe.

We value children's "voices". We listen to them and let their voices guide the curriculum. We recognise that the child has "a hundred languages", and provide opportunities for each child to express themselves and learn through interesting materials and unique experiences. We foster the whole child, their social, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing.

We support children's efforts to construct meaning from the world around them by drawing on their prior knowledge, providing inspiration through new experiences and providing time and opportunity for reflection and consolidation. The environment is an important part of the learning experience. We provide an aesthetically pleasing environment with stimulating experiences that cater to individual learning and development.



Our documentation and practice is informed by the National Quality Standards (2009), Early Years Learning Framework (2009), Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (2009) and the Code of Ethics – Early Childhood Australia and our core philosophies are underpinned by the following understandings:

- 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
- Children are effective communicators

We believe the following 4 characteristics are required for successful learning:

1. Strong relationships between teachers, children and their families
2. Children given time to investigate and be active learners
3. Adapting curriculum to individual strengths and interests of children
4. Intentional planning for both play-based and explicit learning

QUALITIES OF A LOWTHER HALL GIRL

The following are the Qualities that we seek to assist girls to develop during their years at Lowther Hall:

- She has a clear set of values which she can articulately communicate and apply to her life
- She is committed to the pursuit of excellence
- She is curious and knows how to learn
- She is resilient and able to accept and learn from failure
- She is prepared to take a considered risk
- She understands herself, her strengths and weaknesses
- She is confident and independent
- She has a sense of belonging
- She cares for others and for herself
- She can work with others and take the lead
- She understands the world and her capacity to shape it
- She is optimistic and has a sense of hope for the future

References:

Early Childhood Australis—Code of Ethics

Belonging, being & Becoming https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-02/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf

Lowther Hall website: <https://www.lowtherhall.vic.edu.au/our-school/our-values/Lowther-hall-qualities/qualities-of-a-lowther-hall-girl>

National Quality Standard <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard>

Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework

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