Bertram Hawker Kindergarten Inclusion Policy

Bertram Hawker Kindergarten supports the inclusion of all children to access, fully participate and learn in our kindergarten program.

Diversity is valued at Bertram Hawker Kindergarten and strengthens our kindergarten community. Children learn to accept, include and appreciate differences where access and participation are the norm. Our policies and procedures reflect the cultures and are responsive to the diversity of our kindergarten community.

Inclusive environments foster natural support networks. There is an emphasis on collaborative and cooperative learning and ways of connecting children in natural ongoing and supportive relationships.

Our inclusive program:

- Provides a supportive and positive environment in which educators work with families and other professionals to meet the needs of all children.
- Ensures all children have equal access to educational goals and learning.
- Assesses and documents children’s learning and development using observations, photographs, individual learning plans and learning folders.
- Recognises and celebrates achievements.
- Focuses on strengths and interests.
- Provides all children with the opportunity to develop greater independence.
- Encourages the development of positive social interactions.
- Supports life skills as children learn to get along with others, show respect and caring for others and be comfortable with differences between people and see beyond differences to similarities.
- Fosters the development of resilience where children are encouraged to proactively respond to set-backs.

Children with additional needs are also supported by:

- Assessment and intervention by DECD Speech Pathology and/or Psychology services.
- The Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) Preschool Support Program – a Preschool Support Worker works collaboratively with educators and families to support the child’s teaching, learning and participation in the kindergarten program.
- Bilingual support for children with English as a second language who require support to fully access our kindergarten program.
- The Speech and Language Program which provides a high level of integrated support for seven children with severe specific speech and/or language impairment whose primary area of need is communication, while learning and development in other areas is similar to that of other children their age.

For further information please contact Margie Colton, Director, Bertram Hawker Kindergarten

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