

Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework:

At Elonera we practice the principles of The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. This curriculum has been designed to assist families and early childhood professionals to guide children's learning and development in the first eight years of life. These years are a critical time for learning and development, when children acquire essential foundation skills and knowledge and when brain development is at its peak. The framework recognises that children's first and most important learning happens with their family. It supports a partnership between families and all professionals who support their learning and development throughout this period. Staff consider many elements of children's individual learning styles and needs, group interests, family contributions and intentional teaching experiences when planning and implementing the learning program.

The Victorian Framework uses five outcomes to describe the key elements of children's learning and development.

These are:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity (**Identity**).
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world (**Community**).
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing (**Wellbeing**).
4. Children are confident and involved learners (**Learning**).
5. Children are effective communicators (**Communication**).

At Elonera Pre-School, we support the practice principles of the framework and encourage all families to share what they know about their child with the staff, including your child's strengths, challenges and goals. Our fortnightly program, which is displayed for parents to read, will be based on the 5 key outcomes of the framework. Some examples of goals you will see implemented in the program may include:

We aim to provide an environment that is responsive to the children's individual needs, abilities and interests while recognising and nurturing their uniqueness and enhancing their self-esteem. Our program provides age/stage appropriate experiences that give children the opportunity to investigate the world and develop learning concepts in all areas. We encourage children to play, to have fun, to ask questions, to work out answers and to take a certain amount of responsibility for their own learning and actions whilst respecting the rights of others and themselves. At Elonera Pre-School learning is supported by experienced Early Childhood Professionals who implement the 8 Practice Principles of the VEYLDF (please refer to our website for further information).

Our kindergarten programs also support the ongoing development of social skills, including:

- Showing respect and caring for others
- Learning to see beyond differences to similarities
- Developing and demonstrating self-control
- Identifying and expressing emotions appropriately
- Being increasingly independent and giving and seeking help from others
- Balancing his/her own needs, rights and responsibilities with those of others
- Resolving conflicts in peaceful and constructive ways
- Working with others and learning to appreciate that collaboration is a great way to get things done
- Learning to apply these skills effectively

Identity:

- Participating in routines to help feel safe and secure within the kindergarten environment
- Building warm and trusting relationships with staff and peers

Community:

- Working cooperatively with others
- Being a valued member of a group and sharing experiences with others

Wellbeing:

- Managing self-care routines such as eating, dressing and toileting
- Using their body with strength and control
- Expressing and managing emotions

Learning:

- Being a curious, active and enthusiastic learner ~ maths, science, literacy
- Expressing creativity using a variety of mediums
- Being a resilient and persistent problem solver

Communication:

- Expressing emotions, ideas and thoughts, using effective communication and speech.
- Enjoying a wide variety of books, including stories and non fiction material

The Learning Environment

We aim to provide an environment that is responsive to the children's individual needs, abilities and interests while recognising and nurturing their uniqueness and enhancing their self-esteem. Our program provides age/stage appropriate experiences that give children the opportunity to investigate the world and develop learning concepts in all areas. We encourage children to play, to have fun, to ask questions, to work out answers and to take a certain amount of responsibility for their own learning and actions whilst respecting the rights of others and themselves. At Elonera Pre-School learning is supported by experienced Early Childhood Professionals who implement the 8 Practice Principles of the VEYLDF:

Family Centred Practice:

Children learn in the context of their families and families are the primary influence on children's learning and development. Professionals engage in family-centred practice by respecting the pivotal role of families in children's lives.

Partnerships with Professionals:

Early childhood professionals are from diverse professional backgrounds. They use multidisciplinary approaches to provide better support to families and draw on the skills and expertise of their peers.

High Expectations for Every Child:

Every child has the ability to learn and develop. Having high expectations is especially important in achieving better outcomes for the most vulnerable children

Equity & Diversity:

Children's personal, family and cultural histories shape their learning and development.

Respectful Relationships & Responsive Engagement:

From birth, secure attachments formed through warm and respectful relationships with familiar adults are fundamental to children's learning and development.

Integrated Teaching & Learning Approaches:

Learning is an active process that must involve children's engagement. Play is essential for its ability to stimulate and integrate a wide range of children's intellectual, physical, social and creative abilities.

Assessment for Learning & Development:

Assessment is designed to discover what children know and understand, based on what they make, write, draw, say and do.

Reflective Practice:

Children's learning and development is advanced when they experience interactions with highly effective early childhood professionals. Early childhood professionals become more effective through critical reflection and a strong culture of professional enquiry.

At Elonera Pre-School we believe that children thrive best when the learning environment:

- Has familiar routines and expectations
- Introduces children to a wide range of individuals or groups working within our community
- Has agreed boundaries, limits and consequences
- Encourages children to participate in both planned and self-initiated learning experiences
- Provides rich literacy and numeracy experiences daily
- Provides opportunities to enjoy special days and events at kindergarten with peers and family
- Promotes and values teachers, children and their families as lifelong learners and researchers

Children in our kindergarten benefit from developing and extending their communication skills, beginning to understand social studies and science, using technology, developing skills that assist with reading, writing and maths, building confidence, learning to be creative and, most importantly, learning to be an engaged and effective learner – skills that are important in school, work and life.