



PROVIDING AN EDUCATIONAL AND
NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR
THE CHILDREN OF URANQUINTY
AND THE SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.



Welcome to Uranquinty Preschool

Uranquinty Preschool was established in June 1984 to serve the people of Uranquinty and the surrounding districts. The preschool is operated by the Management Committee which draws its members from the families attending the preschool. The Management Committee is elected at the beginning of each year at the Annual General Meeting.

The Preschool currently operates 3 days per week, 41 weeks a year, opening 8.30 am – 4.00 pm catering for working families.

It is a 20 place preschool catering for 20 positions per day and Occasional Care positions when vacancies permit for children 3-5 years.

The preschool offers places for children with additional needs, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders and children from Non-English speaking backgrounds.

There are reduced fees for families with a health care card and children of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island background.



Philosophy

We believe in acknowledging the original custodians of this land the Wiradjuri people and their language and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the community.

We believe the child's family is the principal caregiver and educator of their child and that the partnership formed between educators, children and family is the most significant factor in the child's development while at the service. "Educators honour the histories, cultures, languages, child rearing practices and lifestyle choices of families" (Belonging, Being, Becoming. EYLF).

At the heart of our Centre's philosophy, and the values which underpin all our work, is quality of service. As an active participant of the Albury and District Community Preschools Partnering Group we have reflected upon and developed much of this statement of principles as a whole. Fundamental to this is our implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework and reflecting the view of children's life as characterised by Belonging, Being and Becoming (Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity). We regard children as successful, competent and capable learners. We have also considered the NQF guiding principles in our delivery of quality early childhood education and care and have high expectations for children, educators and our Centre. Our Centre understands the importance of treating children, staff, parents, committee members and visitors with respect and encouragement and supporting the role of parents and families. Our Centre understands the importance of providing a safe and secure environment while also accepting that learning requires taking risks and accepting new challenges.

We are working towards embedding sustainability into our whole practice. This includes recycling our rubbish using recycled materials where possible in areas of art and craft and making use of technology in our documentation. We believe in valuing our environment and will encourage children to question what is happening in the world through stories, music and conversations (Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world).

We endeavour to be part of the local community and seek to extend our financial and social links within the community and recognise our place within the broader global community. We have a strong relationship with Uranquinty Public School and work to build a smooth transition between preschool and school. Our Centre understands the importance of Staff and Management Committee making decisions that reflect a long term commitment to the viability of the Centre and believe such decision making will ensure the Centre remains part of the local community.

Our Centre is staffed by dedicated, qualified professionals, who have many years of continued service. We constantly endeavour to deliver the highest possible levels of care in early childhood education through the provision of innovative services to children and their families. All centre staff members are offered extensive training opportunities which foster ongoing professional development and excellence, as well as ensuring that advance in research based evidence and new understanding gained in early childhood pedagogy continue, to inform and improve their performance as educators and childcare practitioners.

Social justice and humanist values are also an important part of our philosophy. The right of the child is paramount. Our Centre recognises the fundamental importance of equity, diversity and inclusiveness in our society and is a strong advocate for the provision of accessible and equitable Early Childhood Education available to everyone. In practice, our Centre is an active participant in the Government's National Quality Agenda, which upholds that early childhood services should be inclusive of all children, recognising physical, cultural and linguistic diversity, particularly embracing and valuing the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Our Centre ensures the needs of each child and family are met and that strong relationships are built by:

- acknowledging the unique quality of each family and encouraging secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships based on mutual respect and sharing of information
- recognising the diversity of cultures and providing opportunities for all children to learn of and respect such cultures
- nurturing relationships within the wider community and respecting continuity of learning and transitions
- encouraging children to develop to their full potential, enhancing their development, skills, thoughts and values that will assist them later in life regardless of gender, race or social origin
- providing opportunities for children which are responsive to their interests and needs and allow them to make choices, gain independence, be inquisitive learners and develop positive feelings about themselves through play based activities and intentional teaching
- modelling positive behaviour guidance based on the understanding and appreciation of other people's rights, responsibilities, needs and feelings
- developing and valuing relationships with staff and demonstrate a commitment to ongoing learning and reflective practice

Programming and Documentation

At Uranquinty Preschool, our program is:

- play based
- follows children's interests
- meets the needs of every child
- links to the Early Years Learning Framework

Our planning includes open ended experiences both inside and outside where children engage in curriculum areas that include language, literacy, science, maths, music, movement and drama in small and whole groups.

The program is guided by the children's interests, questions and ideas making it more meaningful to each child. These interests often extend to being projects and last several weeks or months.

Based on observation and written records, educators plan experiences that build on the children's strengths and interests individually and as a whole group.

All our planning and documentation is guided by The Early Years Learning Framework and the five outcomes.





Parent and Family Input

At Uranquinty Preschool parents have the opportunity to be part of the committee as either an executive member or parent representative. This involves meeting about twice a term with some decision making in regards to the running of the preschool.

Parents and family members are also encouraged to help fundraise whenever they can. This may involve barbeques, selling chocolates and cake stalls.

Parents and family members are often called upon to help with excursions and special events throughout the preschool year.

Following Children's Interests

At Uranquinty Preschool children are encouraged and supported to follow and extend their own interests with enthusiasm, energy and concentration (Early Years Learning Framework Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners). Often these interests become projects that extend over several weeks, months or sometimes the whole year.

We often have special visitors in our service, such as Kathie from Wirraminna with her water bugs and Lydia who taught us Hip Hop dancing.



Cultural Connections

Uranquinty Preschool acknowledge the Wiradjuri people as the preschool is part of Wiradjuri country. Reconciliation is embedded in our daily program and we frequently welcome Aboriginal people into our preschool to share their culture and teach us art. We know many words in Wiradjuri and practise these every day.

We also explore other cultures through music, dance, art and literacy. We also like to cook and taste foods from other countries helping us to understand their way of living.



Community

Uranquinty Preschool is proud to be part of the local community. As the preschool is run from the Neighbourhood Centre the building and playground is utilised by the local playgroup as well as the general public. We value our links to the community and are committed to working in partnerships with these different groups.

Our involvement in local groups/activities include:

- Uranquinty Public School
- Quinty Bakehouse
- other preschools through the Albury Preschools and District Partnering Group
- local truck drivers and farmers





Indoor Play

The indoor play environment supports children's learning, safety, levels of engagement and access to positive experiences and inclusive relationships. At Uranquinty Preschool the children are offered play spaces that embrace natural and open ended materials. The children are in control of their own play and are offered long periods of uninterrupted play time to engage in small groups or independently.





Outdoor Play

Our large outdoor area offers opportunities for the children to be active, messy, and to play on a large scale. The gardens reflect the local natural habitat and encourage native wildlife. There are large shady trees and natural grass where children engage in dramatic and imaginative play. Our playground offers opportunities for water and sand play, climbing, swinging and bike riding.

School Readiness

The School Readiness program is embedded into our daily program as it covers all aspects of the key development learning areas and provides opportunities for each child to extend on their needs and interests. The School Readiness program enables children to use their current skills and interests as a basis for learning.

At Uranquinty Preschool our school readiness experiences include:

- eating from a lunch box
- group games and experiences
- supporting children to develop friendships and cooperate with peers
- encouraging children's independence in all self help skills
- reading with children daily
- discussions about school visits before and after they occur
- supporting children to use crayons, pencils, texas, glue and scissors unassisted



Pre-school Times

The preschool is open Wednesday to Fridays
from 8.30 am until 4.00 pm for children aged three to five years.

Staff Members

DIRECTOR

Louise Grigg

Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood) 3-8 Years
Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) 0-5 Years

EDUCATORS

Nicole Lyons

Diploma in Children's Services

Catherine Bourke

Diploma in Children's Services

Contact Details

URANQUINTY PRESCHOOL INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

80 Connorton Street (PO Box 37)
URANQUINTY NSW 2652

T: 02 6922 9787

E: uranquintypreschool@gmail.com

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