

The Walker Learning Approach

Walker Learning Approach at Salisbury Downs Primary School

We believe in a rigorous play based approach to learning in the Early Years and base our program on the philosophy and work of an Australian education expert Kathy Walker. WLA provides a balance of children actively investigating a range of skills and experiences for life through strategically planned play that helps with the transition from pre-school to school.

WLA key elements are:

- Resilience
- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Thinking skills
- Resilience
- Self-concept
- Intrinsic motivation

The Walker Learning Approach was developed and designed to engage children in authentic and meaningful ways so that children will enjoy their learning. It draws upon evidence from neuroscience and human development and reflects and respects the uniqueness of culture, family and relationships.

There is a strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy and social skills based on outcomes selected from the Australian Curriculum document.

We strive to foster a love of learning, an understanding of each other and encourage confident self-managed learners.

[Creating Engaging Centres in Play and Personalised Learning K-2](#)

Some of the key goals for children's learning is to promote in them the ability to think laterally and creatively. To be able to self-initiate, to explore the properties and elements of things, to problem solve, to take risks, to think deeply, to construct ideas and meaning, to utilise their own understandings and discover new ones, to become interested in endless possibilities and opportunities and to become increasingly intrinsically motivated to learn, to find out, to try, to have a go and to develop resiliency.

An important aspect of the learning environment is to ensure that children have the opportunity to construct, to create, to explore and investigate in ways that are purposeful, planned, intentional and robust by the teacher and specifically, carefully and strategically set up in ways that foster and develop skills such as problem solving, thinking critically and creatively, taking risks, constructing meaning and developing a range of skills.

Creative, open-ended investigation areas are an important element of the Walker Learning approach. Through regular play based curriculum, the nature of how and what resources are established, set up, displayed and provided for the children is extremely important and intentionally planned.

Rich print around the room, children's own writing, texts, posters, labels, the richness of literacy and numeracy, oral language, conversation, children's own planning and thoughts and ideas will fill the learning spaces every day.

Learning intentions are displayed each day on the parent information board along with the focus children and reporter and photographers tasks all provide many opportunities for intentional and purposeful links back to literacy and numeracy.