



Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School Philosophy

At the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School (GGFS) we strive to provide learning and nurturing for children and their families, that will lead to children being successful in life as they grow and develop. We believe that children are capable and clever, and work in partnership with them in their exciting journey of growth and development. Our educators are skilled and critical practitioners, committed to their own professional development, and to supporting families and children. They endeavour to present a significant focus on Aboriginal cultural perspectives. They know that they make a positive difference in a child's life both in the here and now and in the future. To encourage children's positive learning and development, our educators:

- Acquisition of Gumbaynggirr language and the intergenerational transfer of Gumbaynggirr cultural knowledge
- "Two paths strong" Strong in education and strong in culture
- Aboriginal pedagogy and methods of learning centred on country, language, culture and Elders' wisdom
- The School is an extension of the Gumbaynggirr community, and there is an expectation of high level community consultation and engagement. The School will incorporate Aboriginal Perspectives across all Key Learning Areas.
- Nurture and respect children and strive to ensure that every child feels valued, safe and secure at GGFS.
- Collaborate with Elders and community to share and enhance cultural knowledge and support our children's cultural identity giving them a strong sense of belonging as we partner with families to build on their early cultural experiences of life.

- Encourage children's independence and autonomy and promote respect for others and for all forms of diversity.
- Design curriculum centred on Gumbaynggirr knowledges and philosophies, that encourages creativity and critical thinking and promotes independent and confident learners.
- Listen to children, respect their rights, learn from them and include their perspectives in curriculum decisions.
- Are role models and advocates in the Aboriginal community, representing GGFS at community events.
- Work closely with families and support them in their parenting role, both at GGFS and in the broader community.
- Work with families to ensure children are healthy and safe.
- Are committed to ongoing professional development, further study and critically reflecting on practice to ensure best practice.

We provide learning environments and experiences for children that will build upon their existing levels confidence and sense of identity through:

- Connection to land and country.
- Connection to family and community.
- Teaching and valuing languages.
- Caring for the environment, considering sustainability and respect for nature and the ocean.
- Authentic, real world learning experiences focussed on maintaining culturally significant practices.
- Large, natural learning spaces reflecting connection to land and culture.