

WESTALL

Voice of Children

A young boy with dark hair and blue-rimmed glasses is sitting on a wooden chair. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and yellow pants. He is focused on playing with two small toy cars, one in each hand. The background is slightly blurred, showing other wooden chairs and a person's leg in the distance. The overall atmosphere is warm and focused.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the children who took part in this project and their families for allowing this research to occur. Special thanks the Director and Educators at Westall Kindergarten who enabled this project to take place, and to Bandits and Co for capturing the project through photography and film.



About this book

This book captures images and quotes from children who participated in the Voice of Children project.

The Voice of Children Project captures the perspectives and insights of young children, aged four to six years old, who attend early learning centres located on Our Place sites.

Informed by a comprehensive literature review of studies conducted in Australia and overseas, the project seeks

to understand children's experiences, hopes, dreams and aspirations through child-led interviews. Children's experiences in their early learning environment, their sense of self and their expectations for their future are explored.

The Voice of Children Project is a collaboration between Our Place and Monash University's Health and Social Care Unit, conducted in 2022 and 2023.



Family Connection

“This is my parents, and my dog is resting here.”

“My dad is there, that one. My mum’s there, that’s two. Me, three. My sister, four. My grandpa, five!”

“My brother and my sister and my mum and my dad. My brother is bigger than me, and I is bigger than my sister. I’m five.”

Self-Identity

“I am 5 years old. First, I was 4 years old, then I had my birthday, then I turn five-year-old.”

“I like making colouring. I’m a genius at making buildings.”

“I can make anything I like.”

“I can make a car by myself. A spiderman car.”

“I am really good at races.”





Engagement with kinder program and space

“This is the sandpit, and this is the eggs, and we don't know what is going to hatch.”

“I like being inside and outside.”

“We got this digger, you can fill it with water...when it gets dirty, you can wash it off.”

“This is my favourite part, this is shaving cream! You wipe and you use this, and you shake shake it, and you choose a different one...and you make art!”

Expectations for the future

“A policeman!”

“An engineer.”

“I’ll design things that will help me as I go and help patients. Design the electrician that have to shock the patients to kickstart off the heart.”

“It’s a secret plan.”

“A nurse.”





Children's Interests

“I really like drawing rainbows.”

“Holidays”.

“Playing with my friends.”

“Playing lego with my friends.”

“The snow and snowballs.”

The **Voice of Children Project** is part of Our Place's research and evaluation work. Our Place supports the education, health and development of children and families in the Westall community. We listen to and respond to the needs of the local community and help schools to be the central place for life-long learning and support services. Our Place has a 10-year commitment to the Westall community.





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