

CARLTON

# Voice of Children



## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the children who took part in this project and their families for allowing the research to take place. Special thanks to the Early Learning Centre Managers, Educational Leader, Teachers and Educators at Gowrie Victoria, Carlton Learning Precinct who enabled this project to take place, and to Bandits and Co for capturing the project through photography and film.



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## 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 three to five 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

“I have a mum and a dad and a sister but no brothers... I come here when my mum and dad got to work, and they do something. I don't know what they do.”

“My mum and I are in my house.”

“In my family is mum and daddy. I don't have any pets.”

“I play with mummy and play with daddy. We play horses, they go on their knees, and I ride on their backs, they have ribbons around their necks, and I hold onto it.”

# Self-Identity

“I come from Australia.”

“I’m four years old, I am almost five. You know how next year, I’m turning five.”

“I’m strong, but Elsa is stronger though.”

“I’m good at puzzles, even though I haven’t done a puzzle in a while.”







# Connection with Educators

“I am happy because they are my teacher, when we do the grounding circle at group time.”

“I play with the teachers; my teachers play mums and dads too.”

“Teachers paint with me - right over there!”

“This is the kitchen where someone cooks in here, it's Nicky! She's got a mini shop in there. She makes the food.”

# Expectations for School.....

“I’m a bit excited about school and a bit nervous because I don’t know what will be happening. When I go to school, I might have a racetrack for my bike, I’m not at school yet, I’m just at kinder still.”

“And you know how next year, I’m turning five. My brother is ten, he goes to school, it’s not fair he gets to go to school.”

“This is the big room; I think this is my room next year. I’m going to a different school soon, when everyone gets bigger, bigger than this room, they go a bigger school.”





# Children's Interests

“I love apples, oranges, pears, white rice and orange pumpkin soup.”

“Playing with Lego, building big towers with Lego.”

“In the park I ride my bike. I got a peddle bike and a bike that doesn't have peddles.”

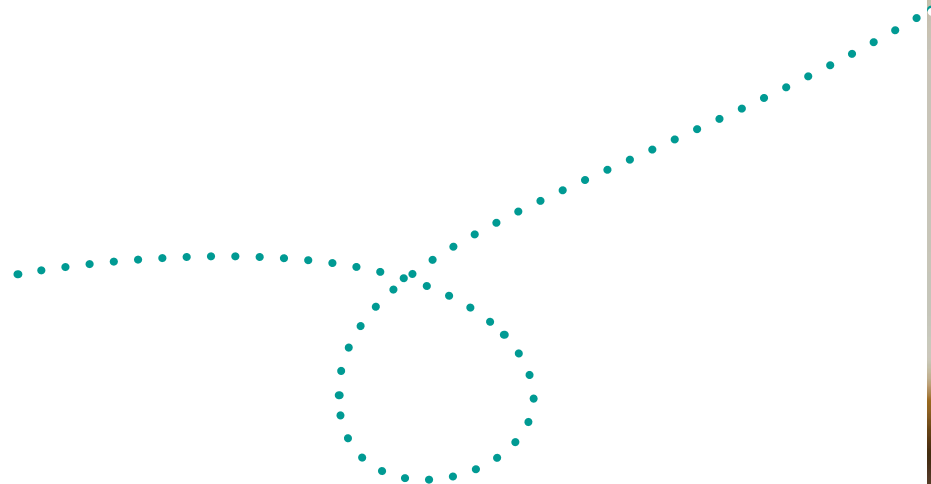
“I want a bunny, it's my favourite animal because they are really cute.”

“I have toys at home, Thomas, he is a train engine.”

“I'm going to the pool today; I'm going to go upside down.”

## 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 Carlton 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 ten-year commitment to the Carlton community.







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