

MOOROOPNA

# 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 Service Leader, Educational Leader, Teachers and Educators at Mooroopna Children and Families Centre 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 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

“Play beetle and the dice with my nana. I go and visit nana, a bit of a drive. She just lives in town.”

“We live on a dirt road. We are getting a new house to live in. We used to have a pool in that one, but it was very old.”

“My house is on a rock road, near the orchid. Fruits and veggies, oranges, bananas, watermelons, carrots, grapes, and also apples and pears. They give it to the shops.”

“I am really good at drawing my family.”

# Engagement with kinder program



“I like the playground and the swing.”

“I like the water pump in the sandpit and the slide out there.”

“I like to play in the kitchen.”

“Playing with the playdough. Make monsters. We can add some pipe cleaners, pop stickers, and googly eyes to make it scary.”



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# Expectations for the future

“When I grow up to sixteen. I can play in the older school, the grown-up school.”

“I want to play with the soccer.”

“I want to be a dad.”

“I want to be an army soldier.”

“My dream is to be a helper on the helicopter. Helicopter ambulance, a paramedic!”

“To be a unicorn!”

“I wish I could be a queen.”

# Children's interests

“I like playing  
hide and seek.”

“My favourites is to go ride a bike  
on the footpath out there. And  
have a race with my friends. Only  
if you peddle fast, I am fast.”

“I like playing on the  
monkey bars.”

“I like painting.”





# Young children in rural Victoria

“My little puppy.  
Jack Russell.  
So, two Jack  
Russells and two  
Border Collies.”

“I have two dogs. One is a puppy,  
and we rescued the puppy one.  
And the puppy is only a baby still.  
They bite cos they don't know.”

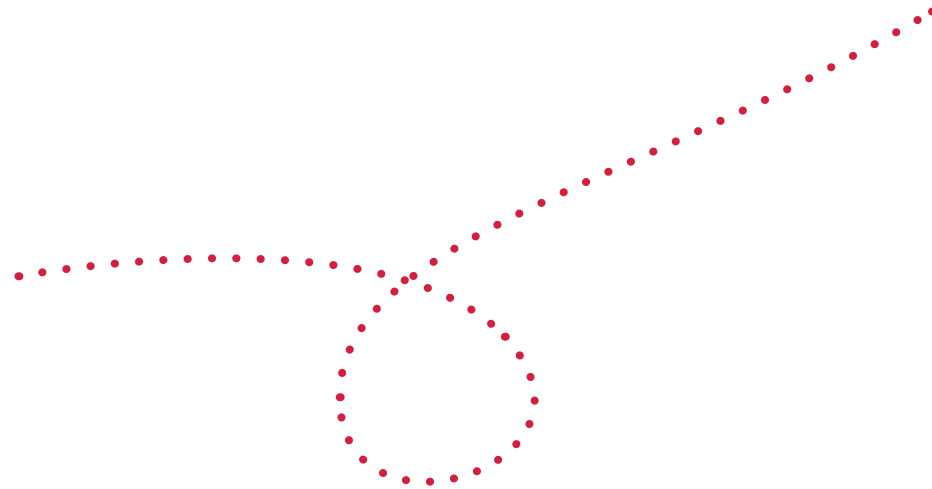
“Playing outside.  
And my favourite  
thing to do is ride  
a motor bike, cos I  
have that at home.”

“I had cows, and then they get  
pregnant. The baby cow drinks all  
the milk.”

“I love going  
outside in  
the rain.”

“I would wish  
for a real  
horse!”

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 Mooroopna 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 Mooroopna community.







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