

# Preschool Program

We believe that the early years of a child's life is the most important time in the child's life for laying foundations of good skill development.

We have a comprehensive program that prepares children intellectually and academically, socially and emotionally.

We feel that a meaningful, integrated, emergent curriculum using EYLF as the Framework is the most beneficial to children's learning across all developmental domains. A curriculum in which children are active participants and collaborators allows for a more individualistic and meaningful involvement by the children.

Our program is implemented during a set time throughout the day and provides the necessary practice of skills in order to give each child an introduction into Big School.

Our preschool program is play based covering many of the key learning areas from the Department of Education (DEC) School Curriculum.

An outline of the areas that are covered listed below are:

## English - Language (Receptive/Expressive) / Pre reading skills

- Listening to stories and predicting outcomes
- Talks to other people about familiar objects and events
- Introduction to public speaking through the delivery of news item (Show and Share program)
- Naming and sounding out letters of the alphabet
- Recognition of first and last name.
- Asks and answers questions in group time
- Expressing ideas/opinions in group time
- Speaking in full sentences confidently
- Telling a story to the group
- joins in singing familiar songs
- Recognition of environmental print
- Labelling - objects in the environment
- Following and maintaining a conversation
- Remembering and recalling information
- Sequencing time events
- Ordering according to sizes
- Naming basic colours and shapes
- Concentration - ability to sit in group time without disturbing others
- Ability to follow directions and persistence to complete a task
- Participating in and understanding the concept of games with rules such as tunnel ball, egg and spoon race, duck duck goose and what's the time Mr Wolf.
- Completes puzzles
- Differentiates between opposites- up & down, under & over, in front & behind, day & night.

### Letter of the Week

- Discussion about the letter
- Sound and name of the letter
- Pictures with objects and people that start with that letter discussed with the children and displayed.
- Letter traced on whiteboard and then children trace on stencil.

### Mathematics

- Count and recognise numbers 1-10 in sequence and out of sequence,
- 1:1 counting correspondence (child can count objects )
- Simple addition and subtraction, number recognition, matching, estimating, mass and measurement.

### Science and Technology

- Participating and predicting outcomes of simple science experiments such as floating/sinking or freezing/boiling
- Observing chemical reactions of ingredients (such as when we made "lava")
- Measuring ingredients and observing changes to ingredients when making play dough or cooking.
- Playing on computers and learning about the mouse, keyboard, cause and effect and negotiating pathways through simple computer programs.

### Community

- Discussing and learning about jobs and occupations in the community.
- Introduction to Aboriginal studies
- Learning about the cultures that make up our community.

### Gross Motor

- Observing the development of children's large muscle groups during outdoor play time.
- Climb a variety of obstacles
- Throwing
- Kick a ball
- Dig a big hole in the sandpit.
- Running
- Balancing
- Hopping
- Jumping
- Skipping

### Fine Motor

- Participation in activities to assist in strengthening the small muscles in the fingers which is an important in the development of hand writing.  
Activities such as:
- Utilising scissors to cut around and over a variety of different lines
- Learning to hold a pencil in the correct grip (pencil grip wrap song)

- Threading a variety of different sized beads
- Rolling and kneading play dough
- eye dropper activities,
- rubber bands
- Construction with small lego
- Manipulating and using tongs in a variety of activities
- Locks with keys
- Using nuts and bolts to screw together
- A variety of peg activities

### Social/Emotional

One of the most important aspects of our pre-school program is the emphasis on giving children the confidence to gain independence.

- Self help tasks such as doing up buttons putting on shoes, toileting and opening lunch boxes and food packaging.
- Children are encouraged to verbally express their needs and wants and to use words during situations of conflict.
- Social and emotional development also consists of learning to separate from family.
- Dramatic play in learning centres such as home corner, restaurant, beauty salon and shop.
- Role playing various characters and occupations.
- Sharing and taking turns
- Responsibility for own actions
- Making and maintaining friendships with others
- Problem solving
- Blow their own nose
- Pack away activities
- Learn about feelings and empathy

### Art and Crafts

- Painting, printing, drawing collage and experimenting with the effects of a variety of artistic media.

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#### How Parents can help with School ReadinessPreparation

- Visit the school to help familiarise children with their classroom, the bathrooms, the library and the playground
- Have a picnic and practise using lunchbox and drink bottles  
Wearing the school uniform often before school starts
- Label children's possessions so they can recognise them
- Attend school orientation visits  
Be honest about what happens at school  
Encourage independence  
Prepare children for routine change.