Runcorn State School

Prep 2015

Every Child,
Every Lesson, Every Day
Since the enactment of the Australian Curriculum, Runcorn State School teachers have been committed to following the specific content that is expected to be taught across the key learning areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Science, History and Geography.

The Australian Curriculum outlines the core knowledge, understanding, skills and general capabilities important for all Australian students. The Australian Curriculum describes the learning entitlement of students as a foundation for their future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. It clearly states what all young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling. The Australian Curriculum provides the foundation for high quality teaching to meet the needs of all Australian students.

Additionally, the Australian Curriculum acknowledges that the needs and interests of students will vary, and that schools and teachers will plan from the curriculum in ways that respond to those needs and interests. This is key to our curriculum vision of ‘Every Child, Every Lesson, Every Day’.

At Runcorn State School, the prep year also incorporates The Early Years Guidelines (EYCG), a framework which is designed around six factors that have been shown to influence student school readiness and their future success throughout their schooling years.

These factors are:

- Social and Emotional Competence
- Health and Physical Wellbeing
- Language Development and Communication
- Early mathematical understandings
- Active learning processes, with a focus on thinking, investigating, imagining and responding.

Evidence of your child’s learning will be collected during the year. This evidence will be sourced through observations, conversations with the student and through the collection of work samples. Runcorn State School provides the opportunity in Term One and Term Three to attend a three-way interview (parent/s, teacher/s and student) and a written report in Term Two and Term Four.

At all times, we encourage parents to discuss any issues with the teachers as they arise. At Runcorn State School we aim to ensure your child’s experience at school is a most positive and rewarding one. As the Prep Curriculum forms the foundation for their primary education, we focus on building a positive approach to learning whereby every student has opportunities to achieve their maximum potential in a happy, caring and secure environment.

Further information regarding the Australian Curriculum can be found at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)

Further information regarding the Early Years Curriculum can be found at [www.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au).
**Focussed Learning and Teaching** in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History occurs as Prep students experience aspects of our formal curriculum from day one. In English, for example, the focus will be on letter-sound relationships and the enjoyment of quality literature.

**Investigations** involve children interacting with people, objects and representations as they inquire, explore relationships and test ideas. In the Prep room this could mean exploring how sound is created using vibrations or finding out how to resolve conflict in play.

**Real Life situations** enable children to build connections between their home, community and classroom experiences and may include activities ranging from cooking or talking with visitors to attending excursions or celebrations in the community.

**Routines and transitions** quickly become part of everyday life for Prep children. Children develop skills to assist with:
- Starting and finishing times
- Lunch times
- Going to the toilet
- Washing hands
- Attending specialist lessons.

**Play** is central to the Early Years Curriculum and includes various types of play such as:
- Fantasy
- Socio-dramatic (life-like play)
- Exploratory
- Manipulative
- Physical
- And games with rules.
What You Will See Your Child Doing In The Prep Year

❖ Using language through reading, writing and speaking and listening;
❖ Investigating interests;
❖ Co-planning with the teacher activities for the day
❖ Talking with teachers and other children;
❖ Designing and making things;

❖ Working in Number and Algebra, Statistics and Probability, Measurement and Geometry;
❖ Using computers to draw, make signs, play games and find out about the world;
❖ Taking part in everyday experiences like gardening, cooking and tidying up;
❖ Writing and copying letters and sounds;
❖ Learning about size, shape, weight and measurement;
❖ Constructing and problem solving;

❖ Singing, dancing and painting;
❖ Listening to stories;
❖ Playing indoor and outdoor games;
❖ Climbing, balancing and Imaginative play; and
❖ Swimming (Term 4).
What Are The Learning Benefits Of All These Experiences?

The Prep year experiences will help your child to...

- Develop early literacy and numeracy skills;
- Take on responsibilities;
- Co-operate with and respect others;
- Make sensible choices about the health and safety of self and others;
- Learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers;
- Develop physical skills;
- Use their imagination and creativity;
- Develop their oral language and listening skills;
- Become confident in taking risks in their learning;

and most importantly...

Your child will develop a positive approach to learning!
Readiness for Prep

Physical Readiness

To give your child the best possible start to their schooling, ensure that you protect their health. You may like to do the following:

- A complete physical examination: ask your family doctor. The examination should include a hearing and vision test as well as a check on the general physical health and development of your child.
- Immunisation + Boosters: these include Triple Antigen (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus), Sabin (poliomyelitis), Measles/Mumps and Chicken Pox. Don’t forget – the boosters are most important.
- Dental check: even baby teeth need attention to ward off future trouble with permanent teeth and for the child’s comfort.
- Establish good sleeping and eating habits: a 5 year old child needs ten to twelve hours sleep each night. Encourage your children to eat three good meals each day.
- Establish good health habits: encourage your child to be responsible for their own dressing, grooming, washing and general cleanliness. Make your child aware of the importance of hygiene.

Social Readiness

When children begin school it is important to remember that it is not only a step for them, but also a step for you as parents.

- Prepare your child for the school environment: show them the school; tell them when they will be going; tell them what to expect; let them know the teacher is a friend.
- Help them to adjust to separation from home and family: get your child used to visiting unfamiliar places, meeting new people, staying at a friend’s house for an afternoon.
- Help your children develop gradually: be patient and show an interest in what they do. Encourage them to help others and praise them generously for tasks well done and for honest effort.
Perceptive Readiness

Before school begins you can do so much to help your child to be ready for school.

- Talk with your child about matters that will allow him/her to express what he/she is thinking. For example ask questions about things he/she sees at the park, in town, on TV etc. Encourage your child to give reasons for their thinking and to speak in sentences. Help him/her develop a moral judgment as to what is right and what is wrong.
- Read to him/her for a minimum of 10-15 minutes each day, especially before bedtime. Discuss the pictures and talk about the story. Let him/her do most of the talking, ask when, where, why.
- Take your child to interesting places such as a farm, the airport, the railway station, or a factory. Talk about the things he/she has seen on the trip.
- Encourage the use of correct English. Baby talk is a tremendous drawback to a child who is learning to read and write.
- Help your child to wait, take turns, share, stand in line, use good manners, be tolerant, etc – skills which will be required at school.

- Provide your child with pencils and paper. Encourage drawing and experimentation of writing. Although we do not expect all children to be able to write before attending Prep, some children do come to school being able to write their name in some form or another. If your child shows an interest in doing this, please give them an advantage by providing the correct model when writing. For example, note that capitals should not be used for all letters of their name, only the first. Remember, methods and styles of handwriting may have changed since parents were at school, so please refer to the writing sheet at the back of this book for the way in which your child will be taught at school, including the correct pencil grip.

- Allow your child to do plenty of cutting and pasting, helping to develop skill and coordination.
- Encourage your child to be a good listener. Try to avoid repeating instructions but rather encourage him/her to listen the first time instructions are given.

A background of varied experiences, and the child’s ability to talk about them, helps so much in the process of learning, especially reading and writing.
Preparing Your Child For Prep

Encourage your child to be independent by helping them get used to:

- Using playground equipment safely;
- Putting on and doing up his or her shoes (we thoroughly recommend velcro);
- Caring for and putting away play things;
- Using a handkerchief or tissue;
- Going to the toilet independently, rearrange clothing and washing hands after use;
- Carrying his or her own bag;
- Caring for and identifying his or her own belongings;
- Recognising his or her first name (it’s also good to at least know their last name even if they don’t yet recognise it in print); and
- Eating and drinking without help (opening lunchboxes, wrapping and unwrapping school lunches and drinking from drink bottles).

Finally … we hope that your child’s Prep Year at Runcorn State School is an exciting and rewarding experience for both you and your child and we look forward to seeing you all at our Interview Mornings in October, our Orientation Morning in November again in 2015.
Enrolling for Prep 2015

Children will need to be five years old by 30th June in the year they enrol in Prep i.e. children born between 1st July 2009 and 30th June 2010 are automatically eligible to attend Prep in 2015.

Enrolling Your Child At Runcorn State School

There are current vacancies in Prep for 2015 meaning that children who are outside the catchment area are able to be enrolled at Runcorn State School. We do ask, however, that parents/carers submit all enrolment forms as soon as possible.

When enrolling your child you will need to give the school a range of information, including:

- Your child's name
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Phone Number
- Parents’ or carers’ contact details
- Emergency Contact Details

Some documentary evidence is required for example, a birth certificate (which can be ordered from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages) or court orders for custody arrangements.

- Information about any medical condition or medication your child has, together with your doctor's instructions and contact details.
- Any other information that will assist the school in providing for your child’s education and welfare. This may include details from your child's previous education and care providers.