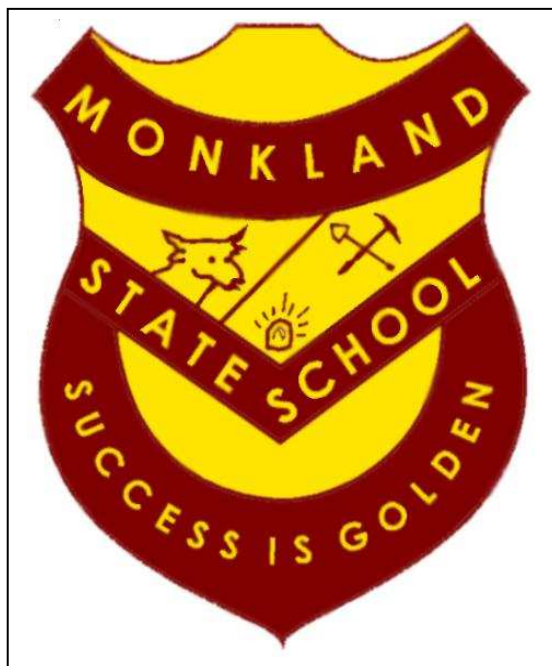


Get Set For Prep



2019

What will your child do in Prep?

Prep teachers in state schools and most non-state schools will use the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines developed by the Queensland Studies Authority. The guidelines are based on the play-and inquiry-based approach to learning that has been a feature of Queensland's successful Preschool program.

Registered primary school teachers and preschool teachers will teach Prep. With their professional knowledge and expertise, these teachers are ideally qualified to teach Prep.

A key feature of Prep is that it makes connections between children's prior experiences at home, kindy or child care and what they do at school.

In Prep your child will be actively involved in learning and will have opportunities to learn in many different ways – for example through investigation and play.

Children are encouraged to develop independence and personal organisational skills. Working with other children and adults is also an important life skill that is part of the Prep program.

In Prep, children will be:

- Using blocks and manipulative equipment and creating collages to develop early mathematical concepts and skills
- Drawing and painting to encourage oral language, reading and writing skills
- Initiating and participation in dramatic play to build an understanding of the world around them
- Writing stories and copying signs as part of their play
- Playing and investigating independently, in pairs, small groups and as a whole class
- Participating in outdoor activities
- Actively making choices about what and how they learn
- Investigation and learning how to find out about their interests
- Planning with the teacher using a plan-do-reflect model
- Participating in music and language experiences



These learning experiences will help children to:

- Understand and use language to group, sort and describe objects and to communicate ideas, feelings and needs
- Develop early literacy and numeracy skills
- Develop independence and problem-solving skills
- Learn how to cooperate with others
- Develop physical coordination skills
- Listen, respond to and give directions
- Increase self-confidence



Why is play important?

Children learn when they play. During play, they make decisions, solve problems, develop thinking skills, collaborate, communicate and develop a positive sense of self. As children grow older their play changes, it becomes more complex.

Why is a positive approach to learning important?

Everyone wants their child to be happy at school. Our approach, or disposition to learning, helps us deal with all that goes on around us. Teachers always talk about a child's willingness to learn. A child might be very smart but may not have the disposition to learn. This is where family is so important. If families show how important it is to learn, children are encouraged to learn and, in turn, develop a positive disposition as well.

When teachers talk about dispositions, they are talking about a child's:

- Willingness to explore
- Ability to communicate
- Levels of independence
- Ability to work with others towards a common goal
- Ability to keep going even when something may prove difficult
- Confidence and curiosity to learn

More information about the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines is available at www.qsa.qld.edu.au

Getting your child set for Prep

Starting school can be an exciting but stressful time for you and your child. For some children it may be the first time that they have been away from their parents. They may be going into a strange environment with unfamiliar people and things around them.

There are some simple steps you can take to help make your child's time at school more enjoyable and relaxed.

Prep – Hearing and Vision Check

We would recommend that all parents have their child's hearing and vision tested before coming to Prep. You can contact **Gympie Community Health** to make an appointment to have your child's hearing and vision tested. They usually test children once a month. This service is also free. The contact information is –

Gympie Community Health
20 Alfred Street
Gympie QLD 4570
Phone: 5482 1212



A vision test can be done at any optometrist – you need to take your Medicare card.

Please give the report or results to your Prep teacher when your child starts school.

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

- Putting on and doing up his or her shoes
- Eating and drinking without help (opening lunchboxes, wrapping and unwrapping school lunches and drinking from drink bottles)
- Caring for and putting away play things
- Using a handkerchief or tissue
- Going to the toilet independently
- Using playground equipment safely
- Carrying his or her own bag
- Identifying his or her own belongings



Work with your child to develop his or her communication skills.

Help your child to:

- Make his or her own needs known
- Use appropriate greetings
- Respond verbally when spoken to



Familiarise your child with the school environment and routine by:

- Driving or walking by the school a few times so that the school becomes a familiar place
- Attending an orientation program or open day so you can meet your child's teacher and see the classroom
- Showing your child where to put his or her things, such as a school bag and hat
- Making sure your child knows who is picking him/her up from the classroom each day, if it is not always Mum or Dad (eg Aunty, after school care, bus day)
- Visiting the school, if possible, when other children are there so that your child can get used to the number of children, the playground and the movement of children around school grounds
- Introducing your child to other children in the neighbourhood who will be attending the same school
- Asking the school what equipment and materials are needed such as school bag, library bag and hat (most schools will have a list). Make sure all possessions are clearly labelled with your child's name
- Checking with your pre-Prep provider (kindy, childcare) about how they can help children make a smooth transition to school
- Encourage children to understand that teachers are at school to help



Making the first day a success

There are some simple steps you can take to make your child's first day at school more enjoyable and relaxed. Be prepared. The best thing you can do is to make the first day as stress-free and relaxed as possible.

The day before write a list of all you'll need to organise, such as food and a change of clothing. Stick the list to the fridge and tick each item off with your child as you complete it.

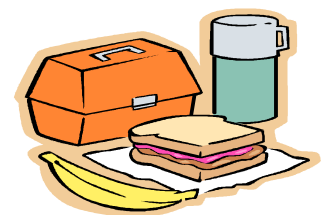
On the day:

- Leave plenty of time to get ready
- Make a nutritious breakfast – this is essential for sustained energy and concentration
- Talk through the daily routine – start, lunch and finish times
- Talk through a few simple self-help ideas – for example, asking teachers for help or directions
- Be positive and encouraging about your child's attendance at school
- Be flexible in the early days of school, children may take a little while to settle in



Packing the school lunch

Being at school is hard work, so by lunchtime your child will be hungry and thirsty. They will need a nutritious and filling lunch.



When packing your child's lunch:

- Provide healthy food and drink in realistic quantities for morning tea and lunch.
- Ensure that your child can open and unwrap their lunch – plastic film wrap can be very difficult for little fingers
- Provide a variety of smaller items rather than one or two large items
- Check with the school for information about healthy food and drink choices
- Provide a water bottle every day and encourage your child to drink from it
- Keep sweets, chips and other party food for parties or special occasions.



How to get involved

As a parent, you play a vital role in your child's education. By getting involved in the school you can help your child make a smooth and happy start to their education.

You can do this by:

- Introducing yourself to your child's teacher.
- Sharing information with your child's teacher.
- Keeping the teacher informed of any changes that may affect your child.
- Talking with your child about their day.
- Attending parent information sessions.
- Reading the school newsletter.
- Checking school bulletin boards.
- Attending family fun days.
- Participating in a safe walking to school program with other children or families who live nearby.
- Attending parent association meetings and talking to other parents.
- Volunteering to attend school excursions or participate in classroom activities.
- Participating in school working bees.

Things you can do at home



You can help your child progress at school by taking some simple steps at home:

- Take an interest in your child's schooling and value the importance of attending. Ask your child over dinner: 'What new things did you do at school today?'
- Read aloud to your child. Reading aloud helps develop the imagination, because it allows listeners to form a picture in their minds. It also helps develop an awareness of the patterns of language.
- Provide a variety of experiences to stimulate your child's imagination – for example, visit the zoo, park or airport.
- Play card games and board games with your child. This helps to develop mathematical, problem-solving, language and social skills such as turn-taking and not always winning.
- Spend time together as a family – activities such as shopping, going to the park or working in the garden build children's awareness and knowledge of the world around them as well as develop language skills.
- Find opportunities to write with your child. This includes making lists for grocery shopping or things to build children's awareness of vocabulary and the importance of reading and writing.
- Sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes together with your child.
- Show respect for your child's natural curiosity. Be patient and try to find the time to answer the many questions they ask or make ways to find answers together.
- Help your child become responsible by encouraging him or her to pass on school notices and newsletters or to pack his or her school bag each day.