



Welcome to Pre-primary



Our aim is to provide a safe, supportive environment that encourages curiosity, exploration and appropriate learning experiences through intentional teaching and play, recognising the individual physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs of the children.

W E L C O M E to the
Pre-primary Parent Handbook! This document has been developed with a goal to provide all Pre-primary Parents and Carers with a succinct overview of the Pre-primary program at Esperance PS. It is recommended that you read this document in conjunction with the school's Parent Handbook, which provides a

comprehensive A-Z overview of the whole school's operations, policies and planning relevant to Parents and Carers, incorporating frequently asked questions.

Further information on the Pre-primary programs will be obtained at the initial Parent and Carers Classroom Meeting in early Term 1.

Attendance

After a year of part-time Kindergarten, your child goes on to full-time Pre-primary. Pre-primary is the first compulsory year of schooling in Western Australia.

West Australian law stipulates that all school-aged children must go to and attend school every day. Developing the habit of going to school every day is important so that your child does not miss out on important ideas and skills they need for future learning.

Did you know?

- Missing half a day of school each week equates to one month of missed learning per year.
- The attendance habits set by your child when they first start school continue throughout their school life.
- If your child misses half a day of school each week between Pre-primary and Year 10, they would miss almost one full year of learning.
- Learning is cumulative – if your child misses a day, it is harder for them to catch up.



Bus Collection

General information about bus services is in the Parent Handbook.

If your Pre-primary child is arriving by bus, they will be collected from the Andrew Street bus bays at the front of the school by Student Councillors, who will walk them to their classroom. A bus child is automatically taken to the bus in the afternoon unless a written note is sent to school stating otherwise. An Education Assistant and Student Councillor escort the children to their appropriate bus each afternoon.

Parents and Carers are responsible for providing staff with their child's bus roster, including bus name/number and when the student will be using the service. Please advise staff at your earliest convenience if there are changes.

Communication Folder

Your child will be supplied with a communication folder which will come home each day. Sometimes it may be empty. If you have notes for us we ask you to put them in the folder. The folder needs to come to school each day.

Eating at Pre-primary

Lunch

Children need to bring a packed lunch each day. Please keep it simple and nutritious, i.e. a sandwich/wrap/salad, fruit and small snack. To ensure children have enough energy for learning in the afternoon they will be encouraged to eat their sandwich/wrap/salad first. We encourage you to avoid nuts and egg products in lunches as some students may have allergies related to these products.

As one of our aims is to encourage independence, please make an effort to avoid commercially packaged food as children can have difficulty opening it. The school canteen offers healthy lunch options. You will need to provide a **water bottle clearly labelled with their name** each day for your child.

Recess Morning Tea

Sitting together for a mid-morning snack is an important part of our program. Please provide your child with their own recess snack. A small container with chopped fruit, vegetables, plain crackers, popcorn or cheese is suitable.

Canteen

Our canteen, Seahorse Snacks, operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for lunch and recess snacks. Pre-primary students can **order lunch only** and orders are delivered to the classrooms.

Lunch orders must be placed before school at the canteen or online at www.quickcliq.com.au

Family Involvement

At Esperance Primary School we value the important role that families play in education and we encourage the involvement of Parents and Carers. Participating in activities is an opportunity for families to observe their child in a school environment, to see what is happening in classrooms and to enjoy yourself alongside your child in their learning. At times there will be opportunities for you to volunteer in the classroom.

Help provided by any member other than a parent requires a Working with Children Check or a signed Confidential Declaration Form. Forms are available at the School Office.

Gates

The gate from the car park into the Kindergarten/Pre-primary area is unlocked at 8:25am and locked again at 9:15am. In the afternoon it is unlocked at 2:50pm and locked again at 3:15pm.

Please help us by ensuring that you shut the gate when you enter or exit.

If you need to come into the school outside of these hours during the school day, please enter or exit through the School Office. Parents and Carers are asked to supervise their child before and after school.

Please see school map in Parent Handbook for Pre-primary entrance.



Parking

Please see school map in the Parent Handbook for parking locations. There is limited parking outside the early childhood entry.

School Bag

Please ensure that your child's belongings are secured in an appropriate bag which is easily identifiable and easy for them to open. The bag should be big enough to carry their lunch, hat, spare clothes and also have enough room for their creations.

Starting & Finishing Times

Pre-primary hours are 8.45am – 3.00pm.

Drop Off

Our classroom doors open at 8.30am to enable students to be settled and ready to learn. Please be on time each morning. At 8.45am the siren sounds to commence classes. Parents and Carers are asked to leave by this time.

If your child arrives after 9:00am, please bring them to the School Office to sign them in. We are always happy to see our students, so please bring them to school even if you are running a little late.

Pick Up

If someone other than yourself is collecting your child, it is imperative that you please provide consent in writing to your child's teacher. This is particularly important for extended periods of time when you may be unable, for whatever reason, to collect your child at 3.00pm.

If you are unable to collect your child on any given day, please ensure that you advise the school's front office by no later than 2.30pm. Our preference is phone contact as quite often an email or Seesaw message may not be received or checked by the teacher prior to the end of school.

Please ensure children do not play on the play equipment before and after school.

Toileting

Typically, Pre-primary children are able to go to the toilet independently.

This means your child is able to:

- Realise when they need to go to the toilet
- Adjust their clothing accordingly
- Use toilet paper
- Wash their hands after using the toilet

Accidents do happen and staff are there to help develop these skills independently. You can help by getting your child to practice these independent toileting skills so they are ready for Pre-primary. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes in their bag with it clearly labelled with their name for every session.

If your child is not fully toilet trained, please inform the school before commencing Pre-primary at what stage of training your child is at so we may also support them to feel comfortable.

Uniform

As Pre-primary students have entered compulsory schooling they are required to wear school uniform. Please refer to the Parent Handbook.

