



# **WELCOME..... to Narangba State School Preparatory year.**

We welcome you to the beginning of your child's formal education in Prep at Narangba SS. Our Prep classes are specifically designed to meet the needs of early learners with a play-based curricula together with some of the rigours of pre-reading and pre-writing activities. Our experienced Prep staff are trained Early Childhood trained teachers and teacher aides who will:

- ❖ provide a programme that is both challenging and responsive to the diverse needs of the young child;
- ❖ be the first link in the educative process for the young child as we participate in appropriate activities within our school;
- ❖ continue to foster quality, appropriate early childhood practices in all that we do.
- ❖ build partnerships with parents and the school community to provide the optimum opportunity for children to develop, learn and have a smooth transition to school life.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT NARANGBA STATE SCHOOL**

At Narangba State School, we believe that a child is a fun-loving, inquisitive person who is shaped and influenced by his/her family background.

We believe that children are individuals who grow and develop at their own rate and have their own learning styles. Children observe, absorb and explore everything in their world through their senses. They develop their attitudes from their adult role models. Children learn through play.

We believe the Prep environment should be welcoming, safe, fun and interesting. It should be stimulating and challenging while catering to the interests of the children. The environment should be relaxed but guided by rules and routine.

Teaching in the Early Phase of Learning is informed by current research that describes how young children learn. We know young children learn in social contexts where children and adults plan, interact and collaborate. Learning is enhanced when teachers are able to use their knowledge of children's learning and developmental needs to guide children to new learning through timely and focused support.

Children attain the foundations of language knowledge and application, sense of self, skills for relating to others and knowledge of the immediate world through their interactions with family, community and participation in early education and care settings long before they commence schooling. From this we know children enter our schools as capable, competent learners with diverse knowledge, skills and experiences. This highlights the importance of forming successful partnerships between the home and school to continue supporting children's learning.

In the Early Phase of Learning, teaching and learning are characterised by the active engagement of children in hands-on learning. Current brain research reinforces the importance of sensory learning for young children. Coupled with a focus on active engagement is an emphasis on the role of children in co-constructing their own learning. There is strong research evidence to suggest participation of children in curriculum decision making empowers children and gives them ownership of their learning. The Prep environment is particularly designed to encourage children to experience new opportunities. When children are engaged and responsible for their learning, they grow and develop an understanding of the ways in which they learn. In doing this they experience success and become motivated to continue their learning journey.

Our curriculum will focus on the **Five Early Learning Areas**:

- Social and personal learning
- Health and physical learning
- Language learning and communication
- Early mathematical understandings
- Active learning processes

These areas are learned through: play, real-life situations, investigations, routines and transitions and focused learning and teaching. Our programme will support and extend your child in all of these areas. The beginning of the school year will have a heavy emphasis on learning to be independent of the family throughout the school day and learning to participate as a member of a group. This time will focus on the core values of our school: **getting along, confidence, resilience, organisation and persistence**. As your child blossoms in these areas, other areas of opportunity will be offered with a particular focus on reading and numeracy. Whilst reading is not the focus of the Prep curricula, some students will finish the year competent readers and early writers and all students will be ready to take on the challenges of Year One.

### **Reading: the best start for your child's education**

We encourage you to lay the foundations for future success by reading with your child. Almost all children learn to talk without being formally taught to do so. On the other hand, the development of literacy skills such as reading and writing is markedly different from the development of language, although dependent on it. Literacy is thought to be 'experience dependent' as it can be encouraged by particular experiences. A number of independent skill sets have been identified as early predictors of later reading success, often referred to as emergent literacy. These skill sets include:

- language abilities (vocabulary),
- the ability to identify the names and sounds of letters (the alphabet),
- an ability to identify and manipulate sounds (phonological awareness),
- an understanding of print conventions together with literacy environments (having books in the home).

A significant body of research has demonstrated a strong relationship between these emergent literacy skills and later success in reading when the child begins their formal education.

Two important aspects of reading aloud with young children are **book selection** and **the style in which a child is read to**.

1. The selection of predictable or patterned books and alphabet books engage young children in the activity of shared reading and to assist in the development of word identification and awareness of how letters map onto sounds. Think about the types of books that you read aloud to the children in your care.

2. The style of book reading, techniques such as inter-active questioning and shared story telling all enhance the established language benefits of shared reading by promoting a number of important emergent literacy skills. The simple action of finger pointing at words or phrases during storybook telling assists children in acquiring important skills, such as the ability to track print, alphabet knowledge and the development of word recognition.

### **Make reading a fun and integral part of your child's daily routine.**

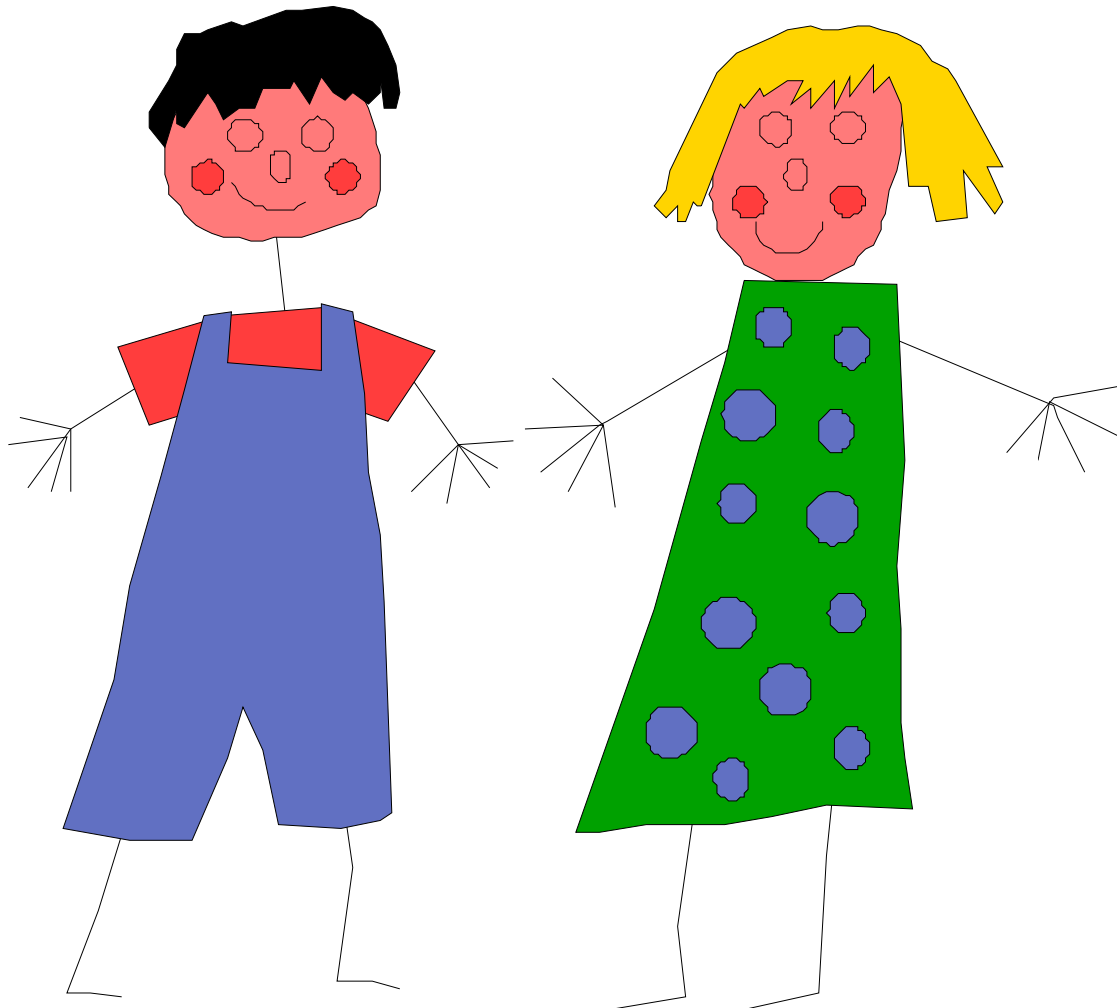
- There is no specific age to begin reading with a child, although it is accepted that the earlier the better.
- There is no magic figure about how long or how often to read with young children except to say that it should be daily. Young children do like routines so developing an everyday reading routine is recommended. This can be part of a bedtime routine however you may find that your child will choose books and share reading at any time of the day, just because they like it.
- Turn off the TV or radio as young children like to hear your voice. Pointing to the words and pictures in the book helps get the child involved. Try out funny voices and sounds, and generally turn this shared reading into a fun time.
- It is never too early to enrol a child at the local library. Many libraries have regular storytelling sessions for toddlers and preschoolers. You can learn a lot by watching someone else read aloud to your child.

At Narangba SS we have a very successful Early Years Reading Programme, "Sounds to Letters" and we will be happy to share this with you as together we continue the journey toward reading. Reading is a wonderful experience to share with your child and will continue to reap benefits as your child grows and learns.



## STAFF

Prep A :	Teacher	Mr David Humphreys
	Teacher Aide	Mrs Debbie Glover
Prep B:	Teacher	Mrs Vanessa Heyn
	Teacher Aide	Mrs Bern Miles
Prep C:	Teacher	Mrs Lizzie Bryce
	Teacher Aide	Mrs Shannon Clifford



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

It is the policy of Narangba State School that all prep children **MUST** be escorted into and from Prep by a responsible adult. We need to be notified if someone other than one of the parents is collecting the child. We will not let your child leave Prep with another mum or another adult unless being told of the arrangement beforehand. (A simple phone call to the school office will do if your situation changes after arrival time). We're sure you'll understand the reasons for this policy.

## **WHAT HAPPENS AT THE PREP?**

Doors open from 8.45am. Please feel free to come in with your child before the session time begins and class begins at 9.00am. Upon arrival:

- ❖ Enter any notices about your child that you wish us to take note of in the book located next to the sign-out book.
- ❖ Check your "pocket" for notices and please read all notice boards. Often there is vital information we need to share as a group.
- ❖ Until the designated starting time all children need to engage in inside activities and this is an opportunity to interact with your child in the learning environment.
- ❖ If you wish to be involved in any work sessions, please indicate in the duty roster book located near the sign out book.
- ❖ Just before starting time, help your child to complete a puzzle or game and put it back neatly in the cupboard. Please tuck chair into the table. Developing these habits helps a child move towards independence.
- ❖ If you are not rostered to help for that day, it would be appreciated if you would leave by 9.00am.

## **DEPARTURE**

- ❖ To help children stay focused on the teacher, the door will be closed when you arrive. Please wait outside until 3.00pm.
- ❖ For safety reasons the children will be waiting on the carpet until you arrive. Please come right up to the carpet area to collect your child and then sign them out.
- ❖ Please try to be on time when collecting children as they can worry. Please phone and let us know if you are going to be late.

## **DRESS – SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

The Prep uniform is exactly the same as the regular school uniform but with a gold hat. The gold hat enables us to distinguish Prep students from others in the playground; particularly in the early weeks of the first year. These items are available from the uniform shop in the amenities block in the centre of the school. Opening times can vary so if you are not sure, please check with the school office.

## **BAGS**

Please choose a big bag that can be operated by your child. Although we will always help, becoming independent and taking responsibility is what children are moving towards. Small bags with small openings are too hard to pack.

## **PARENTS AT PREP**

Parents play the most important role in the education of their child, so we welcome parents to become involved in the Prep classroom.

### **Parents can help by:**

- ❖ Visiting the class and joining in the program;
- ❖ Reading and contributing to newsletters and notice boards;
- ❖ Collecting junk and collage materials;
- ❖ Offering to share hobbies e.g. music, poetry, carpentry;

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

A number of support services are available to help our children develop towards their potential and can be accessed in their Prep year.

- ❖ Guidance Officer
- ❖ Speech Therapist
- ❖ School Health Nurse
- ❖ Dental Van

## **SPECIALIST SESSIONS**

The children will attend weekly Music, Physical Education and Library lessons with specialist teachers throughout the year.



## **SICK CHILDREN**

Even though your child may want to come to school, it is not the place when your child is sick. Runny noses, temperatures, cold sores, open sores or discharge from ears or eyes are all indicators of possible infectious conditions. As well as risking the health of others, your own child is placed at risk of further infection at a time when immunity is low. Please keep your child at home during such times.

Phone 3491 1360 (Student Absence Line – open 24 hours a day) if your child is unable to attend, this line is cleared regularly by office staff and transcribed to the rolls. Please avoid phoning the office directly.

## **HYGIENE**

Viruses and bacteria spread very quickly and easily amongst children in close contact. To minimize cross infection:

- ❖ Children will wash hands before eating and after toileting.
- ❖ Children will be sent home if they appear unwell.

## **INFECTION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

These can occur from time to time and parents are asked to immediately contact the centre if your child has a contagious disease. Medical recommendations would then follow.

## **IMMUNISATION**

We advocate immunisation programmes for young children as recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council. Please ask if you are unsure of the recommended immunisation schedule.

Children with the following contagious conditions must remain at home until the condition has cleared:

- Chicken pox and shingles
- Conjunctivitis
- Diarrhoea/vomiting
- Hepatitis A
- Rubella
- School sores (can return if treated and covered)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Ringworm (can return if treatment has commenced)
- Whooping cough

**HEADLICE** – Head lice is a difficult health issue to deal with at school. Children with head lice should have their hair treated before attending school, please take care to treat hats, clothing, toys and bedding to prevent reoccurrence. We ask that long hair be tied up to prevent spread of head lice.

**Please Note:** The following information regarding the administration of medication to students during school hours.

Should your child be required by their medical practitioner to take medication while at school, we wish to inform you of the Education Queensland regulations with respect to this matter.

1. The parent or guardian must, in the first instance, make a written request to the school. (Forms are available to do this)
2. The student's medication, with **pharmacist's** written instructions on the container must be lodged with the school for security purposes.
3. Administration of that medication will be carried out by an adult staff member.
4. Non-prescribed medications should not be brought to school and will not be administered by school staff.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

We celebrate each child's birthday at Prep. Please send along, on your child's birthday, or closest to it:

- ❖ a birthday cake; or
- ❖ the appropriate number of cupcakes.

## **TOYS/TREASURES**

It is best to leave these at home, as upsets occur when they are lost, damaged or "moved". However, for some children a soft toy helps them to stay – we leave this judgement to you the parent, but trust you will be working towards leaving them all at home.

## **JUNK**

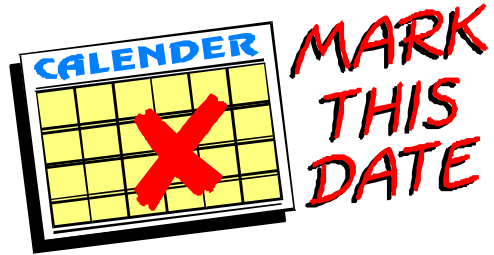
Junk materials or recycled bits and pieces are needed in the prep program. Children use these in their games for constructing the ideas they have. We need an endless supply!! If you could help in bringing some of these from time to time, we would be very grateful:

- ❖ Off cuts of paper from printers – any shapes, sizes or colours;
- ❖ Off cuts of lace, ribbon and material;
- ❖ Packaging materials;
- ❖ Dress up things – e.g. hats, glasses, necklaces, clothes etc;
- ❖ Sample books of wall paper, material, etc;
- ❖ Small plastic bottles and boxes from chemists;
- ❖ Beads, buttons and wool;
- ❖ Soft wood;
- ❖ Computer keyboards;
- ❖ Old appliances, e.g. toasters, hairdryers, radios; and
- ❖ Leftover flowers (silk or material) from florists.

**And finally .....**

We welcome you... We welcome your visits and your interest. Please feel free to discuss you child's progress with us at any time.

# SCHOOL ROUTINE



## SCHOOL CALENDAR YEAR - 2010

School begins on	WEDNESDAY - 27 January
Mid Semester Break	FRIDAY - 2 April
[School Resumes on]	TUESDAY - 13 April
Mid Year Vacation	SATURDAY - 26 June
[School Resumes on]	TUESDAY - 13 July
Mid Semester Break	SATURDAY - 18 September
[School Resumes on]	MONDAY - 4 October
Christmas Vacation	SATURDAY - 11 December

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – 2010

AUSTRALIA DAY	TUESDAY - 26 January
GOOD FRIDAY	FRIDAY - 2 April
EASTER MONDAY	MONDAY- 5 April
ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY	SUNDAY - 25 April
LABOR DAY	MONDAY - 3 May
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY	MONDAY - 7 June
SHOW HOLIDAY	MONDAY - 9 August
MINISTERIAL HOLIDAY	WEDNESDAY - 11 August (Pupil Free Day)

## PUPIL FREE DAYS – 2010

22 & 25 January -Friday & Monday  
12 April - Monday  
12 July - Monday  
18 October - Monday

## PARADES

Parades are held at 2.30 pm weekly on Thursday afternoons for Prep to 3.  
Whole school parades are held for special events.  
Parents are most welcome to attend the parades.