



CONNOLLY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kindy
Information Book
2017



Excellence • Learning • Innovation • Care

Welcome

We welcome you and your child to the kindergarten program at Connolly Primary School.

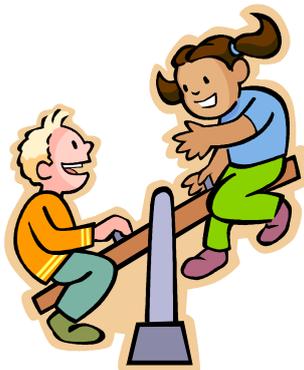
Your child is at a special stage. Children aged 3 to 5 years are learning all the time and they learn best by being active. We want children to see themselves as inventors, problem solvers, discoverers and capable learners and we will help them develop their natural curiosity. The more active children are in their work, the more they learn and remember.



When you visit our classroom, you will see a room full of children playing. You may wonder what we are doing to help children learn. As children play, we watch how they use materials. We listen. We talk with them and find out what they are thinking and trying to do. We help children become aware of their actions, offer suggestions and think about what materials to offer next. Then we challenge them further. This is how we encourage the development of skills children will need in primary school. Through both structured and unstructured play opportunities, your child will be offered activities that develop all four areas of development:



- ★ **Social Emotional:** to help children develop independence, self confidence and self control, follow rules and routines, make friends and learn what it means to be part of a group.
- ★ **Physical:** to increase children's large muscle skills i.e. balancing, running, jumping, throwing, catching etc and use small muscles in their hands to do tasks like threading, cutting, drawing and writing.
- ★ **Cognitive:** to acquire thinking skills such as the ability to solve problems, to ask questions and to think logically (sorting, classifying, comparing, counting and making patterns) and to use materials and their imagination to show what they have learned.
- ★ **Language:** to use words to communicate with others, listen to and participate in conversations with others, understand the purpose of print, recognise some letters and sounds and begin the exploration of writing for a purpose.



WHAT CHILDREN LEARN AT HOME

Many parents ask what they can do at home to help their children succeed at school. You are your child's first and most important teacher. The best thing you can do is to take time to play with your child, read wonderful books together and talk as you go about your normal everyday household chores. This kind of attention has a powerful effect on children and makes your job as a parent more fun and interesting and sometimes easier.

The way you talk with your child makes a big difference in how your child thinks and feels and helps determine the kind of person your child will become.

Many simple activities can help to establish skills in the following areas:



Literacy

- ★ Read books together.
- ★ Talk about what happened during the day and together make up stories.
- ★ Recite nursery rhymes, chants, songs and then have fun changing the words that rhyme.
- ★ Notice street and store signs and talk about what they say and mean.
- ★ Find letters from your child's name on food containers and within books as they are read.

Mathematics

- ★ Involve your child in setting the table for dinner. Find out how many plates etc are needed and then count out that quantity.
- ★ Put away groceries together. Group and sort foods into categories (do they go in the pantry or the fridge?) How many apples did we buy?
- ★ Sort and fold clothes together.
- ★ Play with collections of things and sort, compare, organise, estimate and count. "Can you put all the ones that look the same together? Which pile has the most? Let's count and find out."
- ★ Cook together. Measure and count out quantities. Observe changes.

Science and Society & Environment

- ★ Look at family photos together. Look at how people change over time. Learn about family history.
- ★ Go for a nature walk and make collections of natural objects. Observe and describe them.
- ★ Pretend to be the people you met when you went out in the community and act out what you saw them do and say.
- ★ Encourage your child to ask questions, make observations, predict what will happen next, experiment, think about what happened and share information.

The Arts and Technology

- ★ Listen to music together. Act out songs, clap and move along with the music.
- ★ Go on the internet together and find out about things of interest to your child.
- ★ Dress up and pretend together.
- ★ Talk about your child's art work.
- ★ Encourage them to use their imagination and create a variety of artworks using various materials from around the house.

HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Each day, your child will make the significant transition of stepping from the comfort and safety of the home environment into the unfamiliar realm of the classroom. At Connolly, we believe that a strong home-school relationship is paramount to the success of the children in our care. We will aim to have a strong focus on the connection between children, their families and community settings rather than emphasising separation from them during the long days children spend with us. Young children come into the world seeking relationships for their comfort, identity development and learning process (Carter and Curtis 2003). We believe that strengthening these connections will lead to greater emotional security, which ultimately must lead to improved learning outcomes for our students.

There will be many opportunities to share in the world of school with your child during the year. These include: -

- ★ Playgroup for younger siblings plus kindy age.
- ★ Resource library of games, activities and parent information books to borrow.
- ★ Workshops, parent information sessions throughout the year.
- ★ Regular home learning based on themes to practise skills and concepts.

The first and most important element would be to show interest in the preschool program by coming along on parent roster. Your interest and support greatly encourages your child. A roster will be displayed and parents are invited to place their names on the day/s that are convenient for them. Your help is invaluable in the morning sessions when we will be tackling more challenging tasks.

We will introduce the roster once the children have had time to settle and get to know and trust the staff and other children. It is preferable (but not mandatory) if younger siblings do not accompany you on roster, as this minimises disruptions and allows your preschool child to have your undivided attention.



Our kindy program is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and the WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines (2014).

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES

Outcome 1 - Children have a strong sense of identity

1. Children feel safe, secure and supported.
2. Children develop their emerging autonomy, interdependence, resilience and sense of agency.
3. Children develop knowledge and confident self identity.
4. Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.

Outcome 2 - Children are connected with and contribute to their world

1. Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.
2. Children respond to diversity with respect.
3. Children become aware of fairness.
4. Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

Outcome 3 - Children have a strong sense of well being

1. Children become strong in their social and emotional well being.
2. Children take increasing responsibility for their health and physical well being.

Outcome 4 - Children are confident and involved learners

1. Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, co-operation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.
2. Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, research and investigating.
3. Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.
4. Children resource their own learning through connectivity with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials.

Outcome 5 - Children are effective communicators

1. Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.
2. Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.
3. Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.
4. Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.
5. Children use info and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking.

PUNCTUALITY

Please ensure that you collect your child promptly at the end of each session and arrive on time in the mornings. Not only is it very disruptive to have people arriving late, but failure to collect your child on time, causes them a great deal of stress, particularly in the first few weeks. If you are unavoidably late, please ring and inform us so we can reassure your child. If another person is to pick your child up, you must inform us in writing. (There will be a signing out book available to write and sign notes). When your child arrives, please bring him/her into the centre to greet staff, so that we know that your child has arrived.

Under no circumstances is it permissible to drop your child off at the gate and let them walk into Kindy unescorted.

SURVIVING FIRST DAY BLUES

We have various initiatives to help to bridge the gap between the home and school. These include:

- ★ *Orientation Day in the year prior to children attending Kindy* where children can visit the centre and stay with parent or care giver for a short time. This will give us a chance to chat to your child and to orientate them to the room.
- ★ *Completion of a storyboard at home*, that comes in with your child in the first few weeks. We are asking that you and your child display photos of their favourite things/family members/pets/etc. on an A4/A3 piece of card along with labels. These will enable us to display these for children to share with staff and their new friends. This stimulates conversation and makes the child feel more at home.
- ★ *Completion of a parent information sheet*, which will give us an idea of your child's interest and needs.
- ★ *When leaving your child for the first time* always say "goodbye" to your child rather than just disappearing. We often find that children settle very quickly once they get into the swing of things. Be assured that if children fail to settle and are very distressed, we will ring and advise you. Please feel free to stay for a short time if your child is distressed on the first day.

ATTENDANCE

Connolly Primary School uses mobile phone Short Message Service (SMS) to send text messages to parents/guardians/caregivers to notify them of an unexplained absence or late arrival of their child. SMS will also be used to provide information to parents about school community events.

Parents will be informed by mobile phone SMS each time their child is absent when an explanation has not already been provided to the school. If your child is absent and a reason has been provided before the time the SMS is due to be sent, you will not receive a text message.

When you receive an SMS about an absence, reply to the number and make sure that the text includes the student name, date of absence and reason for absence. Do not call the number as it is an automated system using a virtual number. Our virtual mobile number for text messages is: **0408 915 178.**

SCHOOL APP

Connolly Primary School has its own app. It is free to download from the App Store on your smartphone. If you have an iPhone the app can be found in the Apple store and on Android on Google Play by searching *The Smartlink*. Please download the app as it is a great form of communication in keeping up to date with what's happening at our school!

PARENTING PLANS / FAMILY COURT ORDERS

Please inform us if a Parenting Plan or Family Court Order is in place for your child.

BIRTHDAYS

We are always thrilled to help your child celebrate his/her special day. Children may bring in a cake, preferably individual cupcakes with candles on the appropriate day.



WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO BRING EVERYDAY (LABELLED PLEASE)

1. A good sized bag to store belongings and work completed at school.
2. A hat. The school has a 'no hat no play' policy. These will be kept in their tray at school.
3. One piece of fruit for morning tea. These are cut up and shared at recess time. Please also include a drink container. A packed lunch will be needed from week 3 and crunch and sip in a small container with for e.g. cut up carrot sticks/cheese/sliced apple etc.
4. A labelled spare set of clothes in case of accidents.

PRIZED POSSESSIONS

We would greatly appreciate it if your child would not bring along his/her most prized possessions or toys. If they get lost or broken the child will be understandably upset and we cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage. Children will get the opportunity for show and tell items to be brought into the centre later in the year.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Parents are asked to contribute items shown on the booklist which can be found on our webpage at <http://www.connollyps.wa.edu.au/parents/booklists.html>

This is greatly appreciated and helps us to use our funds to buy quality resources and equipment.

If you choose to provide the equivalent monetary value of items, we will purchase these items to be used as a shared resource in the class.

Later in term 1, children will have the opportunity to borrow a book from the library and will need a library bag (approximately 30cm x 30cm).

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are not compulsory in the Kindy class. We do have a Kindy t-shirt in the school colours that is available to wear along with other items of the school uniform. Order forms are available from the front office or you can visit the uniform shop. There is a minimum group order for the Kindy t-shirts.



WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AWAY

Please keep your child home if they are displaying any of the symptoms below:

- Ear, eye or nasal discharge
- Infectious sores
- Rash
- Continuous vomiting
- High fever, diarrhoea
- Other obvious signs of infection/illness (headaches/apathy etc.)

USEFUL ITEMS

The following materials are very useful to us in the Kindergarten Centre. They will be requested when needed and can be handed to staff.

Egg cartons

Dress up clothes

Ice-cream containers

Buttons

Felt pieces

Baby food jars

Wool

Lace

Ribbon

Material



We look forward to a very rewarding year with you and your child.
Please do not hesitate to speak with us if you have any concerns.