

BUSSELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



KINDERGARTEN &  
PRE-PRIMARY

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# A CHILD'S PLEA OR "NO THERE'S NOTHING IN MY BAG TODAY."

Today I did my Math's and  
Science, I toasted bread,  
I halved and quartered, counted, measured,  
Used my eyes and ears and head,  
I added and subtracted on the way,  
I used the magnets, blocks and clay,  
So please don't say,  
"Anything in your bag today?"

I've learned about a snail and a worm,  
Remembered how to take my turn,  
Helped a friend when he was stuck,  
Shared and played with the blue tip truck,  
Looked at words from left to right,  
Agreed to differ, not to fight,  
So please don't say,  
"Anything in your bag today?"

You see I'm learning as I play,  
I learn to listen and how to talk,  
To run outside, and when inside to walk,  
To wash my hands and put pasting brushes away,  
So please don't ask,  
"Did you only play today?"

Yes, I played the whole day through,  
I played to learn the things I do,  
I discovered a problem, found a clue,  
And worked out for myself just what to do,  
But all of this is in my head,  
And not in my bag like you said,  
So for now on could you just please say,  
"Tell me all about your day today."

# 2024 Term Dates

Term 1	Wednesday 31 January - Thursday 28 March	
Term 2	Monday 15 April -	Friday 28 June
Term 3	Monday 15 July -	Friday 20 September
Term 4	Monday 7 October -	Thursday 12 December

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## *Public Holidays*

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Labour Day	Monday 4 March
Easter	Friday 29 March - Monday 1 April
Anzac Day	Thursday 25 April
Western Australia Day	Monday 3 June
King's Birthday	Monday 23 September

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## *School Development Days*

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- Term 1 - 29 & 30 January
  - Term 2 - Friday 31 May
  - Term 3 - Monday 15 July
  - Term 4 - Monday 7 October
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## *Reporting*

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- Term 1 - Teacher/Parent Meetings
- Term 1 - On-Entry Assessment Pre-primary only
- Term 1 - NAPLAN
- Term 2 - Semester 1 Report
- Term 4 - Semester 2 Report

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Early Childhood years are an important time during which children are actively engaged in the process of learning. The Early Childhood Education Program is designed to develop the social, cognitive, physical, creative and language skills of young children. Each of these areas is carefully considered with your child's needs and interests in mind. Our program of structured and unstructured learning experiences will encourage your child to develop skills in problem solving, decision making, socialisation and independence.

## **CURRICULUM**

The Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines, draw on The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF, Commonwealth of Australia, 2009), to focus on the Kindergarten year in Western Australia. It is used to facilitate the optimal learning and development of Kindergarten children in Western Australia. The Western Australian Curriculum, encompassing the Australian Curriculum English, mathematics, science and history; is the Pre-primary to Year 10 curriculum that provides the content and achievement standards which we use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents.

## **LITERACY AND NUMERACY**

A school-wide approach is used to teach **English** and **Mathematics** from Kindergarten to Year 6; with **First Steps** being the pedagogy of choice. **First Steps** is a resource which enables teachers to cater for children's developmental needs.

## **ON-ENTRY ASSESSMENT**

During Weeks 3 – 5 of Term 1, the Pre-primary children will be participating in the Department of Education's statewide *On-entry Assessment Program* which is mandatory for every Pre-primary child in Western Australia.

The main purpose of the program is to provide teachers with an opportunity, early in the year, to collect information on the essential literacy and numeracy skills and understandings of each child in their class.

This information will assist teachers to develop informed and intentional teaching for play-based programs, designed to foster each child's learning, reflective of individual needs.

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## How to Support Your Child's Literacy Development

### ***Talk with Your Child***

Talking with your child helps your child's learning in so many ways.

### ***Reading to Your Child***

It is important to make reading aloud to your child part of your daily routine. Set aside a regular time every day, find a comfortable place without any distractions, and choose something interesting to read together.

### ***Things to do before reading***

- Encourage your child to select the book. Give them a pile of well-known books so they can choose which one will be read aloud.
- Familiarise yourself with the book as this will make you a better storyteller. Take a minute to look over the book before you share it with your child.
- Settle your child down and talk a little about the book, e.g. "*This story looks as if it is going to be funny.*"

Browse through the book so your child becomes familiar with books and how they are handled, e.g. *holding the book the right way, turning the pages.*



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## **Things to do when reading**

- Read clearly. Make the story interesting by exaggerating expressions for different character voices and sounds. You may like to add simple props so your child can identify with different characters or act out parts of the story.
- Hold the book so your child can see the pictures and writing.
- Sometimes let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Draw attention to the pictures.
- Sometimes point to the words as you read.
- Ask and answer questions as needed.
- Encourage your child to join in and 'read' too. Invite him or her to describe pictures, 'read' pages or join in with words that are repeated.
- Accept and praise your child's attempts to 'read'.

## **Things to do after reading**

- Talk about the characters and what happened in the book.
- Help your child tell the story from the pictures. Keep in mind that your child's reading level and listening level are different. When you read easy books, your child will soon be joining in with you. When you read more advanced books, you instill a love of stories, and you build the motivation that encourages children to become lifelong readers.

## **Writing Style**

It would be of great help if you could model the correct writing style when writing your child's name so that it is consistent. Ask your child's teacher about this.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy

(NSW font example)

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## Writing with Your Child

- Talk about the characters and what happened in the book.
- It is important for you to write with your child so that they can see you writing and hear what you are thinking when you are writing.
- Use photos from an outing to make a book about what you did, e.g. a trip to the zoo. Plan what to write with your child and talk about the letters being used.
- Keep a diary with your child. They can draw a picture or glue in photos to remind them of the day. Sometimes, point to the words as you are reading.
- Talk about what you are writing and why you are writing it, e.g. a shopping list so that you know what to buy, an email to Grandma to thank her for the birthday present
- When writing with your child talk about the way you are writing, e.g. It is a letter so I write 'Dear Grandma' and I finish it by writing 'love from'...
- Talk about the letters you are using to begin a word, e.g. 'I need to write sausages on my list. It sounds like Stephen's name at the beginning because they both start with 's'.
- Involve your child in many different types of writing such as reminders about jobs to do, emails to friends and relatives, making cards for special events (e.g. birthdays, weddings, new baby, thank you), phone messages, letters to Santa, invitations and shopping lists.
- Make a book of the songs or rhymes your child knows and include an illustration with each song so that your child can 'read' the book.
- Encourage your child to 'have-a-go' with writing, by writing letters to family members or notes to yourself. Try and provide feedback.· Accept and praise your child's attempts to 'write' even though it may not look like regular writing.





# ROUTINES

## **ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

Each morning you are welcome to stay for five or ten minutes and spend this time with your child. Being punctual on arrival and departure will enable your child to settle more easily. Children arriving late may be anxious and uncomfortable. It is essential that an adult accompany your child until he or she has entered the classroom. Staff will only dismiss children when their parents or nominated care person can be clearly seen. If an unexpected situation arises causing you to be late, please phone the school on 9751 6400.

If your child/children is/are to be collected by anyone other than you, a written note must be sent and that person **MUST** be listed as a person authorized to collect your child. **FOR DUTY OF CARE OBLIGATIONS WE ARE UNABLE TO MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS.**

## **ATTENDANCE**

Kindergarten and Pre-primary hours are 8.45am to 3.00pm.

Kindergarten children attend five full days per fortnight, and Pre-primary children attend five full days each week. Since the commencement of 2013 Pre-primary has become a compulsory program so regular attendance is essential for learning. Whilst Kindergarten is a voluntary program, it is important that your child attends regularly. Regular and/or prolonged absence by your child may result in the loss of a place in the class to a child on the waiting list. If you are going to be taking your child away on holidays during term time, or your child will be absent please inform the staff.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays are very important to children so you are welcome to come in and spend the morning with your child on his or her birthday to make it even more special. Please check with the teacher first if you wish to bring along a birthday treat to share with the class, Freddo Frogs or bought and packaged cupcakes are popular. We cannot share homemade cakes due to child allergies. It is a good idea to check the numbers of children in the class beforehand. Please be aware that some children are allergic to nuts, eggs and other foods and preservatives. On each child's birthday, we will sing some special songs and celebrate the occasion together.

# CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

## **School Uniform**

We promote the wearing of the Busselton Primary School uniform as it fosters a sense of belonging and ensures that your child is comfortably and suitably dressed for the variety of indoor and outdoor activities essential for his/her physical development and wellbeing. Wearing a uniform also enables your child to be readily identified when out in the community which ensures greater safety and security for your child. If your child does wear special clothing to school, be aware that it may get dirty or stained sometime during the day.

Uniform Shop – Uniform Concepts Superstore NELL GRAY

The School Uniform shop is located at 33 Bussell Highway, West Busselton. Samples of Busselton Primary School uniform are available in all sizes with plenty of fitting rooms to enable students to try on garments. Online ordering is available with lay-by facilities to assist families.

Telephone: 08 9270 4663

Email: [busselton@uc.nellgray.com.au](mailto:busselton@uc.nellgray.com.au)

Website: <http://www.nellgray.com.au/>

Check website for opening hours

## **Sun Safe**

At Busselton Primary School we practice 'sun safe' procedures and the children are required to wear a hat when outdoors. Our sun protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending Busselton Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but with particular emphasis from the beginning of September through to the end of May.

Ensure that your child's/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation.

BPS royal blue bucket hats are to be worn outdoors all year round in keeping with the 'No Hat, Play in the Shade'.

# CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

## **Potential Hazards**

Please be sure your child is free from strings, laces or jewellery that could become entangled or wedged in playground equipment and present a strangulation hazard.

There are certain times throughout the year when the mosquitoes pose a health hazard to students and staff. It is recommended that parents/carers apply mosquito repellent before their child/children leave home in the mornings.

## **Extra Clothing**

*Your child needs a complete set of extra clothing, which is stored in a plastic bag in his/her school bag to use in the case of spills or accidents. If your child is recently toilet trained, please send extra sets of pants and underwear. We have a limited amount of extra clothing, which is available if your child does not have the appropriate article. If your child borrows clothes from school, please launder and return.*

## **Label all Clothing**

Please mark all items with your child's name. Name tapes or a laundry or permanent-ink pen work well for labelling.

## **Lost Clothing**

Lost and found items are displayed inside the classroom. Named items obviously find their way back to their owners but it is not always easy to match unmarked items. We display them in the classroom entry for a few days and donate unclaimed items to a local charity.



# CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

## **Footwear**

Children access the outdoor environment every day to engage in supervised structured and unstructured gross motor activities. We encourage children to play actively in the enclosed playground area and on the climbing equipment. Non-skid/slip, enclosed shoes such as sneakers or joggers afford maximum safety for both indoor and outdoor activities, and we ask that all children wear non-skid/slip footwear.

## **Independent Dressing and Toileting**

For preschool children, we encourage as much independence in dressing as children are capable of. For this reason, we recommend pants with elasticized waistbands. They are more easily managed especially during toileting routines. Belts and pants with snaps and buttons often complicate the dressing process. Shoes with Velcro fasteners are preferable to laces because Velcro promotes dressing independence. If your child has lace up shoes it is recommended that you begin to teach him/her how to tie laces as soon as possible as this is a skill which takes time and ongoing practice.

The expectation for Kindergarten students is that your child is fully toilet trained and can use the toilet independently.

## **Shoeless Activities**

There are times when the children will be asked to remove their shoes and socks to gain the optimum value from a gross motor activity such as climbing on the outdoor structures, movement to music, playing in the undercover sandpit, etc. (Obviously sand filled shoes present a cleaning issue.) Teachers assess each situation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every student.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## **BAGS**

Your child will require a school bag to carry his/her lunch box, a drink bottle, as well as the change of clothing and schoolwork. Assisting your child to practice opening and closing his/her bag encourages him/her to be independent. We recommend that you empty the bag each night as you may well discover treasures, including newsletters and notes home!

*ALL BELONGINGS, INCLUDING CLOTHING, BAGS, HATS, LUNCH BOXES AND DRINK BOTTLES NEED TO BE MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME*

## **EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS**

Throughout the year your child may be invited to participate in special events such as excursions/incursions. You will be given information well in advance of these events and a permission slip will be provided for you to sign. Money and completed permission slips need to be placed in an envelope with child's name, amount and excursion title and handed to the teacher.

## **FIRST DAY BLUES**

The first day is usually the hardest and it is not only the children who become weepy and don't want to say good-bye. To make this separation easier, here are some useful tips:

- Visit the school, find the classroom, peep through the window.
- Involve your child in choosing a bag, naming items, selecting what to bring for fruit time etc.
- Arrive on time and come into the classroom with your child. The class starts with free-play. Help your child settle at an activity.
- After 5-10 minutes, explain to your child that you must leave, but will return at the end of the session. A kiss and hug always helps.
- Leave
- If your child is distressed, ask a staff member to help you and then leave. Most children will stop crying before their parents reach the car.
- Please feel free, at any time, to phone the school and check on your child. If your child doesn't settle, we will phone you.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## **FOOD AND FRUIT**

When your child attends full days at school, you will need to pack a nutritious and suitable lunch. Try to avoid pre-packaged snacks; fresh really is best!

Please also ensure that your child can

open all items in his/her lunch box. In the early years we have 'fruit time' to encourage good nutrition and social interaction. Children will need to bring in a piece of fruit or suitable vegetables, such as carrot or celery, for recess/morning tea. No other food is eaten at this time.

## **CANTEEN**

The canteen is managed under the P & C and operates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Canteen operation is in keeping with the Department Policies and Guidelines and provides a selection of healthy and nutritious options on their summer and winter menus. Kindergarten and Pre-primary students cannot order recess from the canteen.

## **LUNCH ORDER PROCEDURES**

1. Order lunch in the morning before 8:50am.
2. Using the bags provided, complete and enclose correct payment if possible.
3. Hand into canteen staff.
4. At lunchtime, teachers will send a teacher assistant to the canteen to collect the class box of lunches for distribution in the classroom.

YOU MAY PREFER TO ORDER ONLINE. <http://m.ouronlinecanteen.com.au/>

## **HOME SITUATION AND ITEMS FROM HOME**

Home situations have a great influence on your child. Please notify us if there is any change in the routine at home, which could possibly affect your child at Kindergarten or Pre-primary. Resources purchased by the Kindergarten or Pre-primary are designed to withstand tough handling. This is not always the case with items brought to school from home. With the exception of special times when children are asked to bring something special from home, no items should be brought to school.

## **ILLNESS**

Parents are requested to keep their child home if they appear unwell, as the school has no adequate supervision for caring for sick children. If your child is unwell at any stage throughout the day you will be contacted by phone to collect him/her and you will need to sign him/her out at the administration block. When your Kindergarten or Pre-primary child is kept home due to illness, an explanation is required for our attendance records.

This can be done, verbally, in writing, text or by telephone.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## **MEDICATION**

If a student requires any form of medication, the school **MUST BE ADVISED IN WRITING**. Parents should read and sign the school policy document and records requirements at the school office. On the advice of the Asthma Foundation, asthma sufferers should keep their inhalers with them in their classroom and parents need to complete an asthma information form at the school office.

## **ROSTER HELP**

Our staff may ask parents to join in the program throughout the year. The presence of a reliable adult to assist with activities can be an enormous help to the staff. We might ask for help with activities such as cooking for example. Staff will let you know when these occasions occur. It is also extremely important for each child to feel a link between the classroom and home.

## **SWIMMING LESSONS**

Pre-primary students (not Kindergarten children) will attend in-school swimming lessons once a day for two weeks, receiving a total of ten lessons. Lessons take place at the Geographe Leisure Centre during Term Four. More information will be provided nearer to the time.

## **VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES**

A Voluntary Contributions and Charges Schedule is distributed each year in November indicating all of the possible voluntary contributions and charges that can be requested in relation to the educational programs being planned for the following year. Spare copies of this schedule are available from the Front Office.

We hope you and your child/children have a happy, fulfilling and productive year with us. *If you have any concerns, please bring them to our attention so we can support you and your child.* We look forward to a rewarding and exciting year.