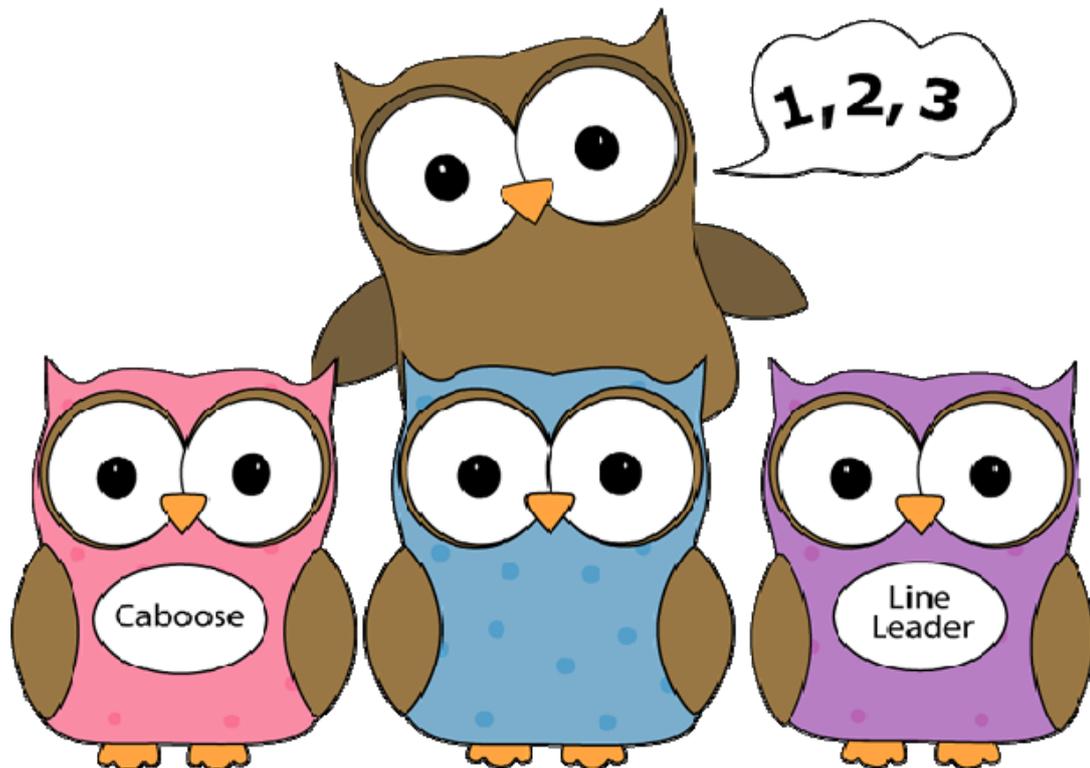




EARLY CHILDHOOD INFORMATION BOOKLET



Clarkson Primary School
Telephone : 9305 1800
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AN INTRODUCTION TO CLARKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM



Welcome to the early years of your child's education.
The journey has begun!

High quality early education leads to lasting intellectual and social/emotional benefits in children, which persist through adolescence and adulthood.

We will encourage your child to:

**EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT, DISCOVER, IMPROVISE, INNOVATE,
CREATE, QUESTION, DISCUSS AND CONSTRUCT.**

Above all, our goal is to encourage a life-long interest in learning.

As partners with you in your child's education we are committed to ensuring that your child has the best possible opportunity to develop their skills and abilities.

The purpose of this booklet is to help you become acquainted with, and give you a better understanding of, Early Childhood Education at Clarkson Primary School.

THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Early Years Program aims to encompass all areas of the child's development i.e. **Physical, Social/Emotional and Intellectual**. This is done in a play-based setting that allows children to be 'hands on' learners. The program is carefully planned to cater for a wide range of interests and abilities and for the progression of skills and knowledge appropriate for the development of each child.

Physical

• Gross Motor

The program includes Fundamental Movement Skills with the major emphasis on large muscle activity. Activities range from climbing on equipment and learning to control their larger muscles and movements to tumble, and completing obstacle courses.

• Fine Motor

A child at this stage of development will be learning to manipulate scissors, puzzles, construction materials and writing tools. They will also be developing a correct pencil grip to create shapes and symbols which will lead to the correct formation of letters in their name, and numbers. Your assistance with introducing your child to these skills prior to them commencing Kindergarten will be invaluable to their progress.

Social/Emotional

A child at this age is at a stage when their language is rapidly expanding. Answers to questions are often needed immediately. It is important to provide them with the vocabulary to label items so discuss nouns, and the adjectives that might describe these nouns, with them, for example the ginger cat, a Golden Delicious apple. If you can teach your child the correct name for as many of the objects in your kitchen and around your house as possible, prior to them commencing school, they will be at an advantage in their learning.

They will have opportunities to talk, participate in large group activities, sing and move to music, participate in dramatic play, listen to stories and rhymes, and draw and paint.

Your child will be learning to play with others, share and cooperate with others, take turns, follow instructions and class rules, and use their manners by greeting others and saying 'please' and 'thank you'. They need to feel safe in the classroom and learn to separate easily from you, knowing that you will be there at the end of the day to pick them up. They should also be independent enough to take care of their own toileting needs.

Intellectual

The Early Years Curriculum encompasses: The Arts (Visual and Music), Computer Technology, English, Health & Phys Ed, Mathematics, Science, Society & Environment, and Technology & Enterprise. As a bare minimum, by the end of the year Kindy children are expected to:

- count to 10
- recognise many of the numerals which represent these numbers
- use one-to-one correspondence to make a collection of a given number
- match a number to an object when counting
- recognise and label nine basic colours – i.e. red, blue, yellow, orange, green, black, brown, grey, pink, purple
- recognise and label six basic shapes – i.e. square, circle, triangle, rectangle, oval, diamond
- recognise and read their own name and those of others from the class
- identify and say the sounds of some of the letters in their name
- be able to print their name with the correct letter formation and correct pencil grip
- create rhyming words and
- listen to the sounds in words to match these obvious sounds to some of the letters of the alphabet.

Again, any assistance you can offer your child to learn some of these basics in the lead up to starting school will give them a real advantage in their learning and enable them to make good progress.

DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTION

Children are not to be left unattended until handover at the start of the day and are to be collected promptly at the conclusion of the day. You are asked to spend 5 – 10 minutes at the beginning of each day to settle your child by sharing an activity with them before you depart. Adults who regularly collect your child **must** be listed on the child's admission form as an emergency contact.

No child will be permitted to leave the classroom unaccompanied or with a person other than his/her legal guardian unless written permission is given or the teacher has been notified accordingly.

It is not appropriate or safe for children below Year 4 to bring or collect students in Kindergarten, Pre-Primary or Year One.

SCHOOL GATES

If you intend to visit the school after 9:30 and before 2:30 you will need to come through the main gates. Access will be provided by phoning through to the office on 9305 1800. You must sign in through the office if you intend to stay. If you are picking up your child early you are required to complete a removal slip at the office for presentation to the classroom teacher before your child can be released.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Our belief at Clarkson Primary School is that students are happier and healthier when a partnership between home and school is established and maintained.

Kindergarten and Pre-Primary are the start of a child's school years. The kind of start a child has often sets the pattern for years to come. For this reason we invite the close co-operation of parents in helping us as we work with your child during the transition from home to school.

It is desirable that parents attend regularly to participate in activities and share with their children to observe their interaction with other children and their progress throughout the year.



A Roster will be displayed on the Notice Board for parents and grandparents to sign up to share a morning with their child. If you have any special skills e.g. you play a musical instrument, enjoy a craft, or engage in cultural activities, please feel free to share them with us. Parent roster runs from 8:45am to 12.00pm. If you can give us even an hour of your time that would be wonderful. Your help at least once per term would be greatly appreciated.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◆ Keep in touch with the teacher on matters concerning your child's health and well-being.
- ◆ Inform the school of any change to your address and/or phone number.
- ◆ Assist with parent help roster where possible – mornings only, 8:45am – 12.00pm.
- ◆ Attend meetings with the class teacher when requested.
- ◆ Read the fortnightly school newsletter and class newsletters.
- ◆ Phone the school if your child will be away.
- ◆ Return all requests for information by the designated time.
- ◆ Make sure that your child attends every scheduled day unless they are very sick.

Full co-operation between parents and teachers is essential and we will gladly discuss with you any problem you or we have concerning your child.

YOU CAN SET THE STAGE BY:

- ◆ Continuing to talk to your child about school as a pleasant experience to which they may look forward.
- ◆ Discussing with us any information which will help us better understand your child.
- ◆ Praising their efforts and setting reasonable goals for them to aspire to achieve. (Remember to praise the lovely work when it comes home).
- ◆ Reading books to your child as often as possible.
- ◆ Ensuring adequate sleep and appropriate T.V. viewing/ computer use habits. We recommend a bedtime of 7:30, at the latest, for this age group, and a maximum exposure of one hour per day of TV/Computer time of appropriate material.
- ◆ Having and using a consistent behaviour management approach with your child. (Speak to your child's teacher for advice if needed).
- ◆ Encouraging your child to make appropriate choices to maintain their self-control.
- ◆ Listening to, accepting, and expanding on their ideas and comments.
- ◆ Most importantly, encouraging your child's independence to remove and put on their own jumper, put their fruit and drink bottle in the correct container, and to unpack their school bag at the end of the day. Remember, the more your child can do for themselves the happier they will be at school.

◆ **READ! READ! READ!**

The importance of reading **DAILY** to your child cannot be stressed enough, especially at this age. A child needs to have hundreds of books read to them by the time they are 5, to develop the concept of what reading is all about and an enjoyment of books. Revisiting favourite books is part of the enjoyment. It doesn't always need to be books - look for shop signs, cook your favourite recipes together, and recite poems and nursery rhymes. Make it a part of your every day enjoyable interactions with your child.

Your child will bring home a library book each week which you will need to read for/with them. At some stage during the year, depending upon your child's progress, they will begin to bring home a Home Reading book each day which you need to read with/for them and sign off on. This is an important part of your child's learning and really requires your support for your child to make effective progress. It needs to be treated as a fun session as they probably won't be able to recognise many of the high frequency words in the text yet.

There are some free sites on the internet, such as Starfall, which introduce the letters of the alphabet, colours and numbers to young children.

SESSIONS

Kindergarten students attend over a five day fortnight on Monday and Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays **OR** Thursday and Friday and alternate Wednesdays. Your commencement letter sets out arrangements for the first few weeks and informs you of which class your child is in.

Pre Primary students attend five days a week.



CONTRIBUTION PAYMENTS

Voluntary contributions have been set by the School Council at \$30.00 per student. These payments can be made through the school office.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged at Clarkson Primary School for the compulsory years of schooling. If you wish your child to wear the uniform the Uniform Shop is located in the Main Office.

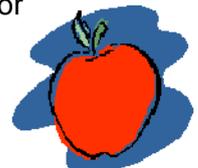
All items of clothing (including hats) **MUST** be labelled with your child's name. Hats are essential! The school policy is "No Hat, No Play," for the whole year. Clarkson Primary School is a 'Sun Smart' school so broad brimmed hats must be worn. These are also available from the Main Office for \$10.00. We recommend that this hat be kept at school to avoid any problems with not having a hat and, therefore, not being able to play outside. We encourage you to apply sunscreen on a daily basis throughout the year to exposed areas on your child such as their face, ears, neck, hands and legs.

Children must wear suitable footwear to school – thongs, shoes with heels and slide-on shoes are not appropriate footwear. Velcro sports shoes are a good idea at this age when children are often not ready to learn to tie their laces.

Although the playground is very safe and carefully monitored, for safety reasons, children will need to wear shoes at all times. Please send your child in shoes that are suitable for climbing and playing on outdoor equipment.

FRUIT

All children are asked to bring a piece of fruit each day, to be cut up and shared, for "Crunch 'n' Sip". This is to be placed in the container by the door. Ask the class teacher if you are unsure of how much fruit you need to provide. (Grapes – a small bunch, strawberries – a punnet, watermelon – ¼ slice, one apple or mandarin, etc.)



DRINKS

Please send a plastic drink bottle of **Water only**, labelled with your child's name, every day. This will be kept in the room for your child to drink from during the day. Staff will top bottles up if needed.

LUNCH

Please send lunch and a water bottle in your child's bag every day. Only water is allowed in the container

- A healthy nutritious lunch might include *some* of the following: sandwich, fruit, salad, cheese and biscuits, yoghurt, dried fruit. Children have half an hour to eat their lunch so please don't pack too much. Please remember we are a NUT FREE school. This includes peanut butter and Nutella. If you can put something else in your child's sandwich it would be appreciated just in case there is a child with an allergy in your child's class.
- All lunch boxes and drink bottles must be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- **Drinks in glass bottles are not permitted.**
- Your child should be able to open most containers and packages without assistance.



TOYS

Children are not encouraged to bring their own toys to school. There is a good supply of toys available at the centre and this ruling saves heartbreak if toys are lost or broken.

SICK CHILDREN

All children should be home if they are sick. They should only return to school when they have fully recovered. Young children need longer to recover as they are more susceptible to other infections. The Early Childhood Centre does not have facilities for sick children. Parents and Carers will be called to collect children if they become ill during the session.

ATTENDANCE

Even though Kindergarten is not compulsory schooling your child will have an enormous advantage in their learning by attending regularly. Please provide a note, text message, or phone, if your child will be absent, particularly if it is due to an infectious disease. (A list of the most common infectious diseases has been provided for you on the last page.)



REST TIME

Rest time is built into the daily Kindergarten program only, as your child adjusts to the greater demands on their growing body. It is a time to relax and listen to story CD's before beginning the afternoon program. Children will make their own pillow at the start of the year.

P & C ASSOCIATION

This organisation has a most important part to play in school affairs and parents are urged to give it their active support. Traditionally the role of the P & C has been to provide funds for school facilities, and this is still an important part of its activities. However, other areas of involvement include working towards closer co-operation between parents, citizens, students and teachers.

The P & C Association meet twice a term in the Staffroom. All parents are invited to attend. Meeting dates will be advertised in the newsletter.

A school newsletter is sent home every fortnight on Friday. It is given to the youngest child in each family to courier to you.

**We look forward to developing a wonderful partnership
with you in the education of your child.**



CLARKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR



WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

Our overall expectation is that students and members of the school community are

- Safe
- Respectful
- Responsible
- Learners

1. All students have a right to learn

- ◆ *Students are expected to follow teacher instructions*

2. All students and staff have a right to be treated courteously and have their possessions respected.

- ◆ *Students are expected to stay out of classrooms unless a teacher is present.*

3. All students have a right to work and play in a safe environment

Students are expected to:

- ◆ *Walk on all paths*
- ◆ *Eat and play in designated areas*
- ◆ *Keep their hands and feet to themselves*
- ◆ *Wear a broad brimmed hat when out in the sun*

4. All students and staff have a right to be proud of their school

Students are expected to:

- ◆ *Put their food wrappings and scraps in the bin*
- ◆ *Care for school property and the environment*

GOLDEN RULE: KEEP HANDS, FEET AND OBJECTS TO YOURSELF



We celebrate Our Wonderful Learners –our OWLS -through awards and commendations.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(DISEASES WHICH EXCLUDE CHILDREN FROM KINDY & PRE-PRIMARY)

CHICKEN POX	Return to school when scabs are healed and child is well. No need to exclude contacts.
CONJUNCTIVITIS	Return to school when medically controlled and discharge from eyes has ceased.
GERMAN MEASLES (RUBELLA)	Return to school when the child is well and no spots are evident. Contacts will not be excluded. ALWAYS NOTIFY THE SCHOOL
HEAD LICE	Return to school after effective treatment has been instituted and lice and nits are removed from the hair. Family contacts will probably be infected and should be treated accordingly. School Policy requires that children go to the school office to be checked after treatment before they return to class. Please also let your class teacher know that you have treated your child. After hair has been treated you still need to check hair on a daily basis for fourteen days. Children's hair must be tied up if it is longer than shoulder length.
IMPETIGO (SCHOOL SORES)	Return to school when treatment has commenced and the sores are suitably covered.
INFLUENZA	Return to school three (3) days following the onset of fever or when recovered.
MEASLES	Return to school with a medical certificate which indicates the child has recovered, or at least 7 days from the appearance of the rash if the child is well. CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT BEEN IMMUNISED WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL IF MEASLES IS EVIDENT.
MUMPS	Return to school with a medical certificate which indicates the child has recovered.
RINGWORM	Return to school when medical certificate indicates that child is no longer likely to convey the infection.
WHOOPING COUGH	Return to school when medical certificate indicates the child has recovered. Do not exclude contacts.

