

CLARKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET



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CLARKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

CLARKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL 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

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO JOIN THE CLARKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The Kindergarten Program at Clarkson Primary School aims to provide a balanced, inclusive and exciting early schooling experience for all children and their families. This is provided by experienced teachers 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 allows for the progression of skills and knowledge appropriate for the development of each child.

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK AND WA KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

Clarkson Primary School delivers an Early Childhood Curriculum that links to the Early Years Learning Framework. This framework has been designed to ensure all children from 0-5 years receive quality education programmes in their early childhood setting. This is a vital time for them to learn and develop. The Framework's vision is for all children to experience play-based learning that is engaging and builds success for life. The Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines include learning outcomes for Kindy students including English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Health Education, Technologies, History, Geography and The Arts (music, dance, drama, visual arts). Teachers at Clarkson Primary School use explicit teaching methods which includes learning intentions, purposeful instructional language and systematic lesson delivery to teach core concepts including beginning reading, writing and number skills.

GROSS & FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

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 tumbling, balancing and completing obstacle courses. Children will be learning to use scissors, manipulate puzzles, create designs using construction materials and practicing with writing tools. They will also be developing a correct pencil grip to create shapes and symbols which will lead to formation of letters and numbers.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Young children's language is rapidly expanding in the early years of schooling. At Kindergarten they will have opportunities to talk, participate in large and small group activities, sing and move to music, participate in dramatic play, listen to stories/rhymes, draw, paint and be curious and creative.

Your child will be learning to play with others, share and cooperate, take turns, follow instructions and learn to participate in an environment without Mum or Dad. We support your child 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.

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

The WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines includes Identity, Connecting & Contributing, Wellbeing, Learning & Thinking, and Communicating. Kindy children will experience:

- counting forwards and backwards to 10 and beyond

- 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 basic colours – i.e. red, blue, yellow, orange, green, black, brown, grey, pink, purple
- recognise and label basic shapes – i.e. square, circle, triangle, rectangle, oval, diamond
- recognise and read their own name
- be able to print their name with the correct letter formation and correct pencil grip
- listen to the sounds in words and match these sounds to some of the letters of the alphabet
- communicate needs to peers and known adults
- ask and answer questions
- and so much more!

It is important to understand that all children develop at different rates, and working together with your child's teacher to support your child with these skills is a fantastic way to engage with your child's learning.

PLAY-BASED LEARNING

Clarkson Primary School has a specific emphasis on play-based learning. We believe all children are capable, unique with individual needs, interests and strengths. All children are given equal opportunities to participate regardless of their gender, culture, socioeconomic background and our programs support the inclusion of children who require additional support. Studies show that play

promotes a child's literacy and language development. During preschool years, a child's vocabulary grows and develops significantly and play-based learning encourages conversations to occur in a natural way. Even participating in individual play-based learning encourages language and communication. A child will often speak to themselves while playing or narrate the toys they are playing with, even acting out multiple sides of a conversation. When playing with each other, children engage in different forms of communication, including storytelling, negotiation, and goal sharing. Play-based learning is important to a child's development of social and emotional skills, such as the ability to develop positive relationships with peers. As children play together, they learn to get along with one another, cooperate, communicate effectively, problem solve and resolve conflicts. They are learning to take turns, wait and share their materials.

One of the benefits of play-based learning is confidence. Confidence helps a child develop the ability to try new things and take risks. Allowing children to choose the way they play enables them to grasp concepts more easily because they are interested and engaged in what they are learning. It also encourages independence in their learning as they lead the way. Being able to learn at their own pace also helps a child develop a positive attitude to learning. In play-based learning there is no pressure on the end result, the process is what is important and they can enjoy the learning and confidently transfer their skills across contexts.

These are crucial skills for later in life!

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS

All public schools are subject to the National Quality Standard. The National Quality Standard (NQS) sets a national benchmark for quality in early education and care services across Australia and establishes a set of Standards that all schools are expected to meet. For more information go to:

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework>

ON ENTRY ASSESSMENT

All Pre-Primary children in the state complete an On Entry Assessment.

The On Entry assessment identifies students' literacy and numeracy skills critical to early educational success and provides valuable information to assist in the development of intentional and informed teaching for play based programmes, reflective of students' educational needs. This is done on a one to one basis with the classroom teacher.

COMMUNICATION

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are uploaded to the school website www.clarksonprimaryschool.com.au twice a term on a Friday. Parents are informed of its issue via Connect and the school Facebook page.

SCHOOL SIGN

The school sign at the main gate is updated with events and reminders regularly.

SCHOOL FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM PAGE

The school's official Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClarksonPSCommunity/>

The school's official Instagram page is:

<https://www.instagram.com/clarksonprimary/>

CONNECT

Connect is the primary communication tool Clarkson Primary School uses to keep families informed. It is an integrated online environment developed by the Department of Education for staff, students and parents in public schools. It is essential that parents log in online or alternatively download the Connect Now app.

Details to access Connect include a login (P-Number) and password which is emailed by the school following enrolment. If you have any issues logging into Connect, please feel free to contact the school.

Connect allows families to:

- Communicate easily with teachers
- Stay informed about school activities and events
- Securely access your child's learning assessments and feedback
- Engage in your child's learning anytime, anywhere and on any device

Our School Newsletter can also be viewed through the secure platform of Connect.



Login to Connect at connect.det.wa.edu.au or download the Connect Now app.

TEACHER MEETINGS

As drop off and pick up times are always busy, it is difficult to catch the class teacher for a chat about your child. Please make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher via email. This is very much appreciated.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Children are NOT to be left unattended and should be handed over to the class teacher at the start of the day. Students are to be collected promptly at the conclusion of the day.

Adults who regularly collect your child **must** be listed on the child's enrolment 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 8:45 am and before 2:30 pm you will need to come through the main gates. Access will be provided by phoning through to the office on 6207 5200 or pressing the intercom button located to the side of the pedestrian gate. You must sign in through the office if you intend to stay. If you are picking up your child early you are required to sign them out using the ipad located in the front office. A confirmation leave pass will then be handed to you for

presentation to the classroom teacher before your child can be released.

SECURITY CONTACTS

To report any in appropriate activities please phone

Education Security – 264 4632

Clarkson Police – 9407 100 or 131 444
or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

For the safety of all concerned, dogs and humans, we ask that dogs are NOT to be brought onto the school grounds. Children are attracted to dogs and may cause the dog to react in a way which is out of character. The school will report any incident to the shire council for their follow up and action.

Official therapy/wellness dogs are always welcome.

SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

All Government buildings and their surrounding grounds are smoke free zones. Parents and visitors to the school site and the surrounding grounds and sports ovals are reminded of this requirement. Alcohol is not to be consumed on school grounds.

PARKING

For the safety of all community members the staff carpark is not to be used to drop or pick students up to and from school unless prior authorisation has been granted. This also includes the driveway to the staff carpark which is marked as a NO stopping area. Parents are asked to use the Early Childhood Parking area and parking bays located around the

school. Please observe the ACROD parking bay and only use if you have a permit displayed. There is also a carpark located at the back of the school across the oval. Please note the Clarkson Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services carpark directly across the road from the school is privately owned, fines will be issued for unauthorised use of this area.

LATE ARRIVALS/LATE COLLECTIONS

School starts at 8:45 am and classrooms open at 8:30 am. School finishes at 2:45 pm. School Gates are opened at 8:30 am, and locked promptly at 3 pm.

To prepare children for future schooling and to establish a good routine, please ensure that children arrive **on time** for sessions. Late arrivals will need to go to the office for a late slip. If you have not notified the office of your child's absence, you will receive a text message from the office.

Often the school receives requests from parents to advise their children they are running late or of changes to collection arrangements. Please call the Front Office on 6207 5200. Communication of messages received after **2:30 pm** cannot be guaranteed.

Children who are not collected from school by 3:00 pm will be taken to the front office to wait for parents. Clarkson Primary School has a new Before and After School Care Program and Vacation Care Program run on-site commencing 2024. This is operated by **Care for Kids** – for enquiries please call 0431 239 153.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Children are not permitted to play on the playground equipment **before** or **after** school. All bikes and scooters are to be walked on school grounds.

ILLNESSES & ABSENCES

ILLNESSES

Please keep your child at home if they are ill or show signs of the following:

- Ear, eye or nasal discharge.
- Infectious sores (cold sores, school sores).
- Rash.
- Vomiting, diarrhea or complaining of stomach aches.
- Fever, sore throat or cough.
- Other obvious signs of infection.

Coughs, colds and stomach ailments tend to go in cycles and it is best that children with bad cases of these be kept at home to reduce the chances of infecting other children or staff.

If you choose to keep your child home, please call the school and let us know.

We will inform you of any upcoming events that you may miss during your child's absence.

If your child becomes ill in the class, we will ring you to come and collect them. It is **IMPORTANT** to notify staff if your child has been unwell or has received an injury since last attending the class.

ABSENCES

Even though Kindergarten is not compulsory schooling, once enrolled there is an expectation that your child attends all sessions they are enrolled in.

Please provide a note, text message or phone call if your child will be absent, particularly if it is due to an infectious disease. If your child is going to be absent for more than one session please notify your child's teacher of the expected period of absence and the reason for their absence. However, if taking a family vacation during the school term you must put this in writing and forward it via the office for approval by the Principal.

ACCIDENTS

In the case of serious accidents or emergencies the school will contact parents. If unable to contact parents an ambulance will be called. Parents will be required to pay all charges. **Please ensure the school is able to contact you or a nominated emergency person at all times and your contact details are up to date.** Emergencies happen at the most unexpected times.

MEDICATION

Most prescribed medication can be administered at home. When it is necessary to do this at school parents must complete an Administration of Medication form. This form can be obtained from the front office. Once completed, please give the form and medication to the class teacher. Two adults will check dosage and administer the medication as stated on the form. We are unable to provide Panadol or any over the counter medication.

ALLERGIES

If your child suffers from any allergies please notify us as soon as possible so that relevant medical plans can be made.

FAMILY HAPPENINGS

Home situations have a great influence on a child. Please let the teacher know if there is any change in the normal routine at home such as a parent in hospital, a parent who works FIFO or changes in living arrangements. If the teacher is aware of a change, they will be able to cater to the child's varying needs if required.

CUSTODY

If only one parent or guardian has legal custody of the child/children, they must inform the Principal of access provisions for the other parent. **A copy of Family Court Orders must be given to the Principal via the front office.**

NAMES

Student's information will be sent home under the child's enrolled, legal name. Preferred names cannot be used at this time. The school is required to use the child's legal name. If you wish to change your child's name, proof of change via a deed poll certificate will be required.

REQUIREMENTS

Kindy and Pre-Primary have their own "Personal Items Lists" that parents can either purchase through Campion Education or a supplier of their choice. In Kindy & Pre-Primary classes, this stationery and equipment is often shared and used for all children throughout the year. Voluntary contributions for 2024 have been set by the school board at \$40.00 per student. These payments can be made via the school office.

P & C COMMITTEE

This organisation has a most important part to play in school affairs. Parents are encouraged to support the P & C. The P & C works to provide funds for school facilities, 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 and school sign and on the dedicated P&C Facebook page.

SCHOOL BOARD

As an Independent Public School, the Clarkson Primay School Board plays an important role in the directions and operations at a school level. Periodically there are parent representatives encouraged to nominate for inclusion on the School Board, as well as opportunities to attend open board meetings throughout the year. The School Board comprises of a range of community members, staff, and parents. The School Board meets twice a term in the Staffroom. Meeting dates will be advertised in the newsletter, school sign, on Connect and via our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram.

PLEASE LEAVE TREASURES AT HOME

We would greatly appreciate it if your child would not bring their most treasured possessions to school. If they become lost or broken your child will be understandably upset and we cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage. Children will have opportunities to participate in “news

telling” when prized possessions will be welcome.

Comforters, bottles or snuggle toys should be left at home for the same reason as special treasures.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE KINDY AND PRE-PRIMARY PROGRAMMES

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. 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. A roster will be displayed on the class window / noticeboard 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 8:45 am to 10:30 am. If you are able to spare even an hour of your time or assist once a term it is greatly appreciated. Please complete a Parent and Child Volunteer Declaration form available from the front office before volunteering in the classroom. ***Note - Please be aware this is subject to change due to WA Health and Department of Education directives.**

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Keep in touch with the teacher on matters concerning your child’s health and well-being.

- Inform the school immediately of any change to your address and/or phone number.
- Attend meetings with the class teacher when requested.
- Stay up to date by reading the school newsletter and Connect messages
- Notify the school if your child will be away.
- Return all requests for information / notes / forms 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 any problems or concerns with you. Parents can contact teachers through email to arrange an interview or via the school office on 6207 5200.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN:

- Continuing to talk to your child about school as a pleasant experience.
- 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.)
- Read books to your child as often as possible.
- Ensuring adequate sleep and appropriate T.V. viewing/computer use habits.
- 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.
- Encourage your child's independence to remove and put on their own jumper, put their lunchbox and drink bottle in the appropriate place, and 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.
- Toileting – Children attending Kindergarten have access to size appropriate bathroom facilities to develop their autonomy when toileting. Some children arrive at Kindergarten fully toilet trained, while others require further support. All children are welcome regardless of their current toileting stage. The Kindergarten rooms have private nappy changing facilities. All Kindergarten staff are knowledgeable and qualified to address these needs as required. Nappies, Pull Ups and wipes must be provided by parents, and toileting plans will be developed to ensure a consistent approach to support your child developing toileting independence.

READ! READ! READ!

- Reading to your child is an important early literacy practice, and an enjoyable time to spend time with your child. 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 everyday happy interactions with your child.

KINDERGARTEN SESSIONS

Kindergarten students attend over a 5 full day fortnight on Monday and Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays **OR** Thursday and Friday and alternate Wednesdays. Your commencement letter will set out arrangements in the first few weeks and informs you of which class your child is in. **Once enrolled there is an expectation that your child attends the Kindergarten program on each of their allocated days.**

Pre-Primary students attend 5 full days a week. Pre-Primary is the first year of compulsory schooling and children must attend unless they are unwell.

WHAT TO BRING?

All children will need a school bag. The bag needs to be big enough to fit work, lunch boxes, drink bottles and spare clothes in.

Each child is required to have:

HAT - A school hat to wear outdoors.

Hats are essential! The school policy is "No Hat, Play in the Shade". All children are required to wear a broad brimmed hat when playing outdoors, throughout the year. Clarkson Primary School is a 'Sun Smart' school so broad brimmed hats must be worn. We recommend that this hat be kept at school. School Hats are available for purchase from Uniform Concepts located at 4 Sarasota Pass Clarkson.

FRUIT - A piece of fruit or vegetable for recess. Please cut large fruit into smaller pieces.

LUNCH - We encourage healthy foods in lunch boxes. 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 approximately 15-30 min to eat their lunch. Please remember we are an ALLERGY AWARE school. If you could please remember to refrain from sending your child with peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, in the event that there is a child with an allergy in your child's class it would be greatly appreciated.
- We are unable to heat up cooked lunches or toast sandwiches.
- 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.
- Special dietary requirements should be discussed with your child's teacher. Accommodations can be made to suit your child if required.

DRINK BOTTLE - 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. Drink bottles will be refilled during the day as needed.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES - A spare change of clothes kept in your child's bag is helpful when we have messy play or helps avoid distress when the inevitable 'accident' occurs, especially early in the year.

CANTEEN

Clarkson Primary utilises the online canteen which operates from Clarkson Community High School. To register for this service please visit www.quickcliq.com.au. Lunches are delivered to the school and then distributed to students via the classroom lunch baskets. Lunches are available on **MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS**. As this is a privately owned business any queries should be directed to the support line 1300 11 66 37.

SPARE CLOTHES

We are always looking for spare uniform items should anyone wish to make a donation.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Wearing the school uniform is expected. Uniforms can be purchased from:

UNIFORM CONCEPTS

4 Sarasota Pass, Clarkson, WA 6030
92704656

Email: clarkson@uc.nellgray.com.au

Website: nellgray.com.au

All items of clothing (including hats) **MUST** be labelled with your child's name.

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 enclosed footwear to school – thongs, shoes with heels and slide-on shoes are not appropriate footwear. Velcro sports shoes or sneakers 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.

PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL ALL CLOTHING AND SHOES WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

REST TIME

Rest time is utilised in class as needed. Some children prefer quiet time, or quiet play after lunch. Teachers are experienced in providing programs and activities that suit your child's needs and adapt as they grow.

CONCLUSION

If you have any questions, queries or concerns during the year, please mention them to the teacher. It is important that the teacher is aware of parents' concerns and you will be able to work together to address these concerns.

We value and encourage open communication. We look forward to developing a wonderful partnership with you in the education of your child and working with you during the year to provide interesting and happy Kindy and Pre-Primary environments for your child to learn and grow in.

Printing Practice Page

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Numbers Printing Practice Page

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