

Early Learning to Prep Transition

Moving from a play based environment to a more formal school environment is not always easy. At Yarra

Our Early Learning Centre children are supported through a range of strategies to ensure a smooth transition. We focus on the child's social development under the broad domains of Wellbeing, Learning and Communication. Being on site, our current ELC children are already familiar with the school environment. Once their orientation becomes a normal part of ELC life. Students who come in at Prep from other kindergartens will go out to the child's kindergarten to observe the child in their known environment. Once their orientation is complete, children are paired up with a classmate to assist them in settling into their new environment.

Children that have demonstrated confidence, communication, social skills, independence, and ability to interact with others, minor conflict resolution, good concentration, independence skills, recognising names and belongings and good listening and hygiene habits are well on the way to making a smooth transition to a more formal learning environment.

Several short sessions towards the end of October or early November in the year before entry. Our current ELC staff attend these sessions to provide a familiar face for the children. Junior School staff can observe interactions and then consult with current teachers, before final classes are announced on Orientation Day.

Once the school year begins, children begin each day with some developmental play activities. This is an opportunity for students to work on their communication and social skills. After developmental play, students move into more formal literacy sessions, starting with 'My Unbreakable Book', integrated by the development of the Learning Community. **My Unbreakable Book**

Parents will soon notice that their child will be recognising letters, sounds, numbers and some words. From here, each child begins to move at their own pace. This difference is normal. It is also an important time for parents to encourage their child's learning and to provide a supportive environment for their child's learning at home.

As the children develop their literacy and numeracy skills, they begin to become more independent, confident and interested to find out more about the world around them. Standing up in front of a school assembly to read a story.

Perhaps the best reflection for parents is to look at their child's writing book at the end of the year. This book will clearly show the development that occurs as children start to link letters with sounds and are then able to attempt to write simple, familiar words. This is a sign of the big development that has occurred. You will see in a child's schooling and definitely a memory to look back on.

Throughout the first year of school, there will be many highlights that capture the imagination and help to develop each child's ability to learn, making them more confident in the world. Writing is a great start to the learning journey.

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