



HILLSIDE
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE
PRE PRIMARY
INFORMATION BOOKLET 2017

PRE-PRIMARY

The aim of the Early Learning programme is to provide quality educational experiences built on the developmental learning needs of the children. These areas of development include linguistic, social, emotional, spiritual, creative, physical and cognitive growth. The curriculum is purposeful and appropriate to the child's current thinking, interests and ways of learning. It will encourage children to be independent, active problem solvers and engaged in the learning process. Practices in the programme are based upon the following principles of learning.

Children learn in different ways, which may range from dependent to independent, impulsive to reflective, cautious to adventurous, individual to group. Children need to "feel", "think" and "do" as well as "reflect".

Children are created with different gifts and abilities. Encouraging them to identify and use their gifts will help them to develop confidence in new situations. They need to experience success. Success will be more likely if children can participate at their own level of ability in challenging learning situations. Children respond to encouragement and recognition from peers and adults. They understand their learning processes and experience satisfaction when they evaluate their achievements.

Language is important to learning. By thinking and talking, children make sense of their experiences and incorporate new ideas with existing knowledge. Motivation affects learning. Children are more likely to learn and remember when they are interested and the experience is relevant.

Children need to explore materials and a variety of media to discover properties and relationships through trial and error. They learn through their senses and develop concepts through many multisensory experiences. Co-operation assists children to learn from each other. When co-operative interactions are encouraged, children refine their language and thinking and develop positive relationships. Learning is influenced by the quality of the interactive role of the adult.

Children need to feel safe in their schooling environment and have clear routines and consistent expectations.

The Early Learning programme provides children with experiences that enhance and develop their personal and interpersonal skills, spiritual attitudes and values across all learning areas. Much of the children's learning is achieved through activities based on structured play. The Pre Primary programme reflects a direct link to current Foundation and Year 1 descriptors from the Australian Curriculum with a focus on the following cross curriculum priorities:

- Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander histories and cultures
- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- Sustainability

Below are listed some of the elements of the programme and their benefit to learning.

Indoors

Blocks are interesting and challenging objects and children use them to experiment, make discoveries, find solutions, represent, and create.

Manipulative materials allow children to make their own discoveries and challenge them to use their initiative and imagination. Such materials include puzzles, threading materials, sorting, matching and classification materials.

Painting is a creative means of expression through which children can represent their impressions of events, objects or their emotions. Children delight in making discoveries about new colours, textures, patterns and designs.

Music in the early years allows for active involvement through singing, playing with musical instruments, moving, listening and creating.

Dramatic role play allows for spontaneous, self-initiated make-believe play for children which provides them with the opportunity to use new concepts and language to interact with others.

Spiritual development is encouraged daily through Bible stories, singing, discussion and prayer times (and structured Bible curriculum beginning in Pre Primary).

Outdoor Play

The outdoor area is an essential part of the learning environment for children. Freedom to explore and expand their capacities outdoors enables children to solve problems and develop self-awareness and self-confidence. This will be enhanced by allowing students to investigate and make discoveries within our Nature Play Ground.

As children gain control over their movement and balance, they test their skills in a variety of situations. Providing for physical activity demands planning a challenging, non-competitive environment in which the children can learn.

A Summary of Things about HillSide Christian College that You Need to Know

Address:	336 Hawtin Road, Forrestfield, WA 6058
Postal address:	as above
Telephone:	(08) 9453 2644
Fax:	(08) 9453 2464
Email:	admin@hillside.wa.edu.au
Absentee Email:	absent@hillside.wa.edu.au
Website:	www.hillside.wa.edu.au
App:	Skoolbag (available for iTunes and the Google play store)

Medical Issues

If a student has an ongoing illness or condition, parents are responsible for informing the school. Any changes to that information are the responsibility of the parents.

If a student has a short-term illness, the school must be informed and staff members are willing to administer medication that may be required. A medication form **MUST** be completed for staff to administer medication.

If a student has a condition that requires a management plan because the illness can be of a serious or chronic nature, then parents and the centre will work together to develop the plan with copies given to personnel as required.

Students are not allowed to self-administer medication. Medication will be kept in a locked store cupboard in the teacher's office. If your child may need their Epipen or inhalers at school please ensure the teacher has them, along with an Anaphylaxis, Allergy or Asthma Plans.

Students who are sick are checked by the teacher and a decision is then made whether to send the child home. A child with a head injury will almost certainly be sent home. When parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted, the Principal may take the child to a doctor or hospital.

Allergies of an anaphylactic nature require a response plan from a G.P. for display in the classroom and staffroom. This needs to be updated annually through the front office.

Absentees

Attendance for student from Pre Primary - Year 12 is compulsory. If you know that your child is going to be absent or if your child has been absent. We require one of the following to be completed.

- Skoolbag App – eForm – Absentee Form
- Absent email to the absent@hillside.wa.edu.au.
- Note to the parents

Please let us know and we will pray for you and support you in any other way we can.

Enrolment Information

Please ensure that you update enrolment information at the office. For example, email addresses, mobile phone numbers.

Morning Tea & Lunch

You will need to provide your child with lunch. Subway lunches can also be ordered on Monday and Friday. Orders are placed in the school office.

Children will need to also bring a labelled water bottle to school. Only water should be in the bottle. This is very important, especially during the summer months.

Pre Primary children are encouraged to select fruit from their own lunchbox, rather than a shared plate.

Cooking Money for Pre-Primary is \$5 per term.

Allergies

Allergies are very common these days and you will be notified if there is anything specific that cannot be brought in. Please DO NOT bring nuts to school or flavoured crackers e.g. cheese crackers, peanut butter, Nutella. Plain crackers are acceptable.



Clothing

Children are required to wear school sports uniform. The details are set out in the Hillside Uniform flyer. All children's items must be clearly labelled.

Rest Time

There will be a transition process to eliminate rest times. Most of them have been to Kindergarten and so are more physically resilient.

Pre-Primary Health Nurse

The Kalamunda School Health Service provides a regular service to our school. All four and five-year-old children will have a screen test. A consent form will be sent home, please fill it in and return promptly.

Dental Service

The Dental Therapy Centre located at Wattle Grove Primary School provides a dental service for our school. This is a free and continuing service for each enrolled school child extending to approved high school years. A consent form will be sent home, please fill it in and return promptly. Please make sure you sign all correspondence.

After each child is enrolled, an appointment card will be issued to your child by the dental therapy unit. If special appointments other than your regular check up need to be made, you may contact the Centre on 9453 6969.

Photographs

Information will be sent out closer to the date. You are under no obligation to buy the photographs but each child will be photographed with parent permission in order to provide a record for the school. Students are required to wear their uniform on this day.

Parent Involvement

We warmly welcome all parents to participate in our daily programme. This is not only a great help to staff, but it is also an invaluable time to share in your child's world. Parents are generally encouraged to become involved by undertaking tasks that may include preparing and collecting collage materials, sewing, sharing vocational expertise and participating in the programme. Parents can provide us with valuable support by placing their name on the roster.

Communication

The Early Learning Centre staff are committed to nurturing strong relationships with families and the community. Parents can provide us with valuable information about their child's needs, interests and skills. It is important that we work together to establish positive relationships that enable specific learning and developmental goals as this will ensure consistency of approach and similar strategies between home and the Early Learning Centre. You are welcome to make an appointment throughout the year to discuss any aspect of your child's progress.

It is essential that we have your current address, telephone, mobile numbers, and an emergency contact person. We also need to be informed of any changes to going home arrangements (this includes children attending After School Care), medical information or family circumstances which may affect your child.

Incursions/Excursions

Throughout the year we will have incursions (visitors to the Centre). Pre-Primary students will also have excursions. These enhance the children's learning experiences by providing first-hand opportunities for children to broaden their general knowledge and understanding of immediate environments, the local neighbourhood, and the wider community. These are an important part of our programme.

Toys and Valuables

Toys or valuables should not be brought to school unless requested to do so by the teacher or they are for NEWS. Treasured toys or belongings such as radios, iPods, cassette players, and jewellery should not be brought because considerable emotional upset can occur if these items are damaged or stolen. The school does not accept responsibility for these items.

Assemblies

Assemblies for Year 1-6 are held on alternate Wednesdays. Pre Primary students attend assemblies from Term 3.

Library

Pre-primary children will have the opportunity of going to library one day per week. Children will be able to borrow one book per visit. Please ensure your child has a cloth library bag and borrowing will be based on the return of previously borrowed book/s.

General Information

Portfolios will be brought home by the children at the end of each semester, so that you are able to take pleasure in sharing their work.

Birthdays – we love to celebrate birthdays so please feel free to bring in cup cakes, balloons or lolly bags for each child in the class. We ask that if you give out invitations that you do it discretely with parents, so that staff are not involved and children don't feel missed out.

It is expected that your child be fully toilet trained. If children are unwell, they should be kept home as contagious diseases spread quickly through a close group of children.

Bringing & Collecting Children

Children are to be brought to and collected from their class by an adult.

Children are **not** to be left at their class until the classroom is open and staff are in attendance. (8.40 a.m.).

There is a Before and After School service run by Camp Australia, available for parents who need this facility. Please contact School Admin for further information or you may contact Camp Australia directly.

Arrival and departure must be acknowledged by a staff member. If you have made arrangements for someone else to pick up your child. Please provide this in writing.

Pre-Primary Hours

Pre-Primary normally runs for FIVE full days every week, unless there are Public Holidays or Pupil Free Days.

Times: 8:40 a.m. -3:10 p.m. Please be prompt with delivery and pick-up.

Conclusion

This booklet is not an exhaustive document and some aspects may change from time to time. Nevertheless, it is an introduction to the HillSide schooling community and provides some information about what happens in the Centre.

For further information, please read the *Parent Handbook 2017*

Please feel free to discuss any questions or issues with your child's teacher.

January 2017

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A MINISTRY OF
HILLSIDE CHURCH
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TO KNOWLEDGE, ADD WISDOM
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