

NSW PRESCHOOL FAMILY GUIDE



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Acknowledgment

We acknowledge Australia's Traditional Owners of Country, of the many lands, waterways and skies, and value their ongoing contribution and cultures. We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to First Nations peoples within our organisation. We are committed to strengthening our connectedness to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, languages, stories, traditions and learning, playing, and growing together. Story House Early Learning is committed to Reconciliation as part of our daily practice.



OUR PRESCHOOL VISION

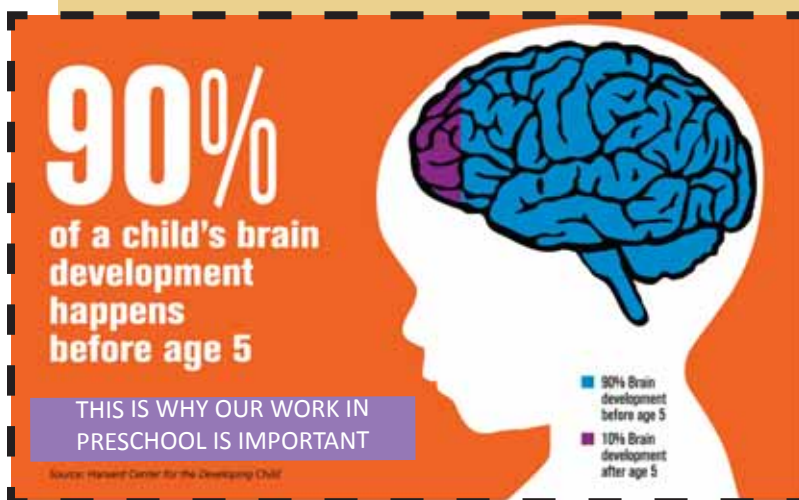
We believe that each child is on their own unique journey that shapes the person they are and who they will become. Just like the chapters in a book, we understand that each child steps through their 'story' at their own pace and in their own time. We believe learning is a lifelong journey and that together with families our preschool helps to foster and create a love of learning in the early years.



Education

OUR PATHWAY TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Play is a fundamental right for every child* and integral to experiencing the joy of childhood. Early learning experts specify that 'Play is fundamental to children's learning in the early years and is the way in which children organise and make sense of the world around them as they interact with people, the environment, community and each other.' In the first five years, children's brains develop at a rate faster than any other time in the life span. For this reason, they need freedom to test their limits, discover new things, communicate, interact with others, build resilience to fail and bounce back, and solve problems. It is through high quality play-based learning that neural pathways are developed as the foundation for life-long learning.



EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK (EYLF)

Our university-qualified early childhood teachers create and implement a stimulating play-based curriculum that is tailored to support each child's development, aligned with the EYLF.

This guiding document outlines 5 key areas for children's learning and development:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

For further information visit: https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-02/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf

* UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31



PATHWAY TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Children engage in an active learning process through relationship with teachers, the local community, other children, and exploring items in the learning space. These opportunities allow children to wonder, discover, develop their independence, and lays the foundation of literacy and numeracy skills. Our preschool day is a blend of small and whole group experiences, both indoors and outdoors related to the following curriculum areas:

- Science and technology
- Literacy and numeracy
- Creative arts and construction
- Music and dramatic play
- Physical, adventurous play
- Nature play
- People and places
- Wellbeing and lifeskills

We will continue to share your child's learning progress with you and provide regular updates about the program through our digital platform.



PATHWAY TO SCHOOL

Our Pathways to School approach is based on inquiry learning approach developing 21st century skills. This includes getting along and working with others, bouncing back from disappointment, understanding the importance of being physically healthy and mentally fit. As part of the program children will become mathematical thinkers and confident storytellers and writers.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENTS

Throughout the year, children enrich their learning and build stronger connections with our local and wider community by participating in excursions. Teachers will also invite special visitors to the service to support connections in the community to link with the learning in the preschool.

These extra-curricular events are valuable opportunities for children to explore and learn from their community.

Families are warmly invited to participate in these events and support children's learning.

These extra-curricular events are different for every service as they are responsive to the broader service community and link to children's interests and program focus areas during the year.

There is no additional cost for these experiences.

PATHWAYS TO SCHOOL

The preschool program equips children with the skills needed for their important transition to school and onward learning journeys. Our preschool program supports your child to be school-ready.

Starting school is an exciting step for your child and your family! We look forward to working in partnership with you to:

- Set goals for your child enabling them to be a successful learner.
- Provide a meaningful curriculum supporting your child's interests.
- Create a positive transition to school.
- Help your child to become confident about this change by linking with local schools and Kindergarten teachers .
- Provide your family with information about the transition to school.

The Teacher will:

- Regularly discuss your child's learning progress with you throughout the year.
- Prepare your child's Transition to School Statement during term 4
- Encourage you to contribute to this statement .
- Share the statement with your child's Teacher to help them understand your child's strengths and interests.





PARTNERS IN CHILDREN'S LEARNING

We welcome families at any time to partner with us throughout the preschool year to inspire and share in children's learning. There are many ways to become involved including:

- Joining us for an hour or two to read some stories, lead a cooking experience with children or share a special event.
- Extending our program with donations of pre-loved items - dress ups, recyclable materials, old baskets, books etc.
- Joining us on excursions and for extra-curricular activities happening at the service.

OUR PRESCHOOL WELCOME

As part of our preschool welcome pack your child will receive a 'senior' preschool t-shirt and a sun hat!

Please discuss any questions regarding your child's learning and development with the Early Childhood Teacher. We look forward to collaborating with you to create the most special preschool year for your child and



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What fees are payable to attend the preschool program?

The amount families can expect to pay will vary. Child Care Subsidy will cover a portion of the cost of a preschool program, with a gap fee payable by families. Government funding helps to keep fees as low as possible and the NSW Government offering is applied to all eligible children across 52 weeks of the year.

What is the Start Strong Program?

The Start Strong Program was developed by teachers holding an approved early childhood teaching qualification, and using the Early Years Learning Framework. Research shows that children who participate in a quality early childhood education program for at least 600 hours in the two years before school are more likely to arrive at school equipped with the social, cognitive and emotional skills they need to engage in learning.

Do all early childhood teachers have the same qualification?

All teachers delivering a preschool program in NSW are required to:

- have a government approved bachelor's degree qualification in early childhood education
- are accredited with the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA)

What other support can my child access for their learning?

Please talk with your child's teacher about any special requirements needed to support your child's inclusion, and about any external support agencies your family is connected to. The service is able to access additional support to ensure each child's full participation in the preschool program.

USEFUL LINKS

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

NSW – Starting school (Education Department)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/primary-schools/starting-school>

Preschool NSW

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/grants-and-funded-programs/start-strong-funding/start-strong-for-community-preschools/2024-start-strong-for-community-preschools-program-guidelines>



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Let your child's early learning story begin with us!