

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



EARLY CHILDHOOD UNIT

There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.

Early Childhood Unit Education Philosophy

Learning is a lifelong process that begins in the home with parents as the primary educators of their children. As the children begin their school life, Early Childhood Educators work towards building upon each child's personal experiences. Catering for the whole child; spiritually, socially, emotionally, creatively and cognitively. We recognise the uniqueness of each child in our care. A child's time at the Good Shepherd Early Childhood Unit will be a journey of steady growth, wonderful discoveries and a time to play and have fun in an exciting and engaging learning environment. Our programme allows children to develop independence, confidence, curiosity, friendship, cooperation and resilience.

As the children progress through the early years of schooling they are introduced and exposed to a range of knowledge, skills and values that enable them to make a smooth transition into the later years of learning. The Early Childhood Educators at Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School Kelmscott, work to provide a secure, positive learning environment in which children are given opportunities to succeed.

Play and Learning Centres

Parents often feel that their children are not learning anything when they are "just playing." However, this is part of your child's learning experience. There are lots of wonderful things to learn what they are playing.

When Your Child Plays with Blocks

They learn to use imagination to create something from their own thinking. They have the satisfaction of being able to make something. They learn about sizes and shapes, weights and balances, height and depth, smoothness and roughness. They learn to play with others.

They explore new concepts, practise emerging skills, and reinforce skills already mastered. They learn about classifying, sorting, predicting, problem solving, and analysing results.

When Your Child Paints

They are more concerned with the process they are going through than with a finished product and this is how it should be for this stage in their development. They learn about colours and how we can use them. They learn to use imagination and transfer ideas to paper. They get emotional satisfaction from being able to express themselves. They learn how to use small muscle and hand-eye coordination to handle a brush.

When Your Child Plays Outside

They develop their fine and gross motor skills. They experience joy in achieving a skill. They become more aware of their body and learn its limitations. They learn safety and caution. They learn to take turns and to share a piece of equipment. Through mediums such as sand and water they also learn about measurement and develop their senses.

When Your Child Plays in the Dramatic Play Centre

They learn the roles of different characters and people and imitate roles in order to make meaning of their immediate environment. They learn how to use imagination. They learn how to cooperate and share a space with others.

When Your Child Plays in the Collage Centre

They learn how to use materials like scissors and glue. They learn how to use imagination and experiment with construction. They learn about shapes, sizes, colours, and textures and to problem solve.

When Your Child Works with Puzzles

They gain satisfaction in completing a puzzle and build their self-confidence. They have an opportunity to improve their hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. They use a trial and error process and problem solve.

When Your Child Listens to Stories or Looks at Books

They learn to listen. Their minds are stimulated as they visualise the things they are hearing about. They have an opportunity to increase vocabulary by hearing new words read to them. They learn about different concepts, people and places. They learn to enjoy books and reading. They learn to use picture cues to read a story.

Adapted from 'The Value of Play' by Leila P. Fagg

Parents as Partners

We welcome all parents to our Early Childhood Unit. We recognise the role of parents as the primary educators of their children. We would like to work with you, to provide the best opportunities for your child.

Open Communication: If you have any concerns, questions or comments about your child and the Early Childhood Unit please feel free to talk to staff. If it is a matter of serious nature please make an appointment to sit down and talk with the teacher. It is important to have open communication between parents and staff in order to make your child's experience as positive as possible.

The following are ways to be actively involved in your child's time at Good Shepherd and to build a strong and positive connection between home and school.

Parent Help Roster: A daily roster to help for a morning session in your child's class (8:40 - 10.30am). During the session you will be involved in helping children with activities, cutting fruit, helping staff prepare and clean, following learning experiences and spending time with your child. We request that no siblings come on roster, as this is a special time to share with your child in their class.

Special Talents Roster: A weekly roster on which parents can run an activity with the class. This may include a craft activity, cooking with the class, talking to the students about your profession or reading the class your child's favourite book.

Laundry Roster: Once a week a parent will be asked to take home the laundry to be washed and bring it back the next school day. (Kindy washing day is a Wednesday, Pre Primary washing day is a Friday)

Dropping Off and Collecting Children

Please be prompt when dropping off and collecting your child. Children can become upset if kept waiting. If the regular person is unable to collect your child, please let us know (in writing – fill in the "Communication" book) who will be collecting your child on that day. Children must be dropped off and collected by an adult. Adults must also wait with children until the session begins.

All playground areas are out-of-bounds before and after school hours. Please ensure that your child stays with you at all times.

Grievance Procedure

Parents should direct their concerns initially to the teacher and if necessary, to the Assistant Principal.

Emergency Procedures

In case of a serious accident, parents will be contacted immediately or, if a parent is not available, the emergency contact person given on the child's enrolment form will be notified. Assessment of the injury will determine whether parent or ambulance is to be called first.

Sick Children

Contagious diseases travel rapidly through a close group of children this age. If your child shows any signs of sickness, please keep him/her at home. The Health Department has guidelines for the school to follow regarding the isolation times required for these illnesses: Measles, Rubella, Chicken Pox, Mumps, Whooping Cough, Impetigo (school sores), Conjunctivitis and Ringworm. For further information contact the school office.

Nut Friendly Centre

The Early Childhood Unit is a nut friendly centre due to severe nut allergies. Please ensure that your child does not bring any nuts or nut products to school, including Nutella.

School Uniform

All students are expected to wear the full school sports uniform, with white sneakers, including the Good Shepherd hat. Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School has a 'No hat, no play' policy. Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name.

Bringing Work Home

Please remember that the work a child does is very important to him/her even though it often lacks appeal to an adult. It may look like a sticky mess, but it is important to try and find some point to praise, e.g. – "That's a very pretty blue" or "You must have worked a very long time to make that."

Admiration and encouragement from parents helps children develop confidence and a positive approach to their work. It isn't advisable however, to put pressure on your child to take work home. Continual demands like "Didn't you make anything today?" can create anxiety in a child and place undue importance on one particular area of learning.