

# Wollongong City Preschool

Wollongong City Preschool provides an educational program that acknowledges each child is unique and that they are collaborative learners. Our program supports the development of skills that enable children to start school as confident, curious, independent and enthusiastic learners. Our focus is on interest based learning and is sensitive to each child's needs. We are committed to children learning through play and the social interactions that occur naturally throughout the day. Through our daily program children develop skills that support their school readiness (in particular, literacy, pre reading and writing).

Our program also includes the following educational tools which help children learn;

Print awareness through:

- Story time with big books
- Sharing Portfolios with families, educators and peers
- Discussing text around the centre.
- Recognising familiar text (e.g. labels).

Fine motor skills through:

- Encouraging and assisting children to write and recognise their own names/letters
- Encouraging pencil grip (drawing and writing)
- Providing cutting, threading and construction activities.

Numeracy skills through:

- Encouraging and assisting children to recognize and write numbers
- Providing experiences that develop counting skills.

Gross motor and fitness skills through:

- Encouraging the development of fitness and co-ordination through games, outdoor experiences and music and movement.

Cognitive skills through:

- Developing attention span and concentration through table games and task completion
- Encouraging children to extend their interests, find information and express their ideas verbally and visually
- Encouraging children to ask questions and develop problem-solving skills through discussion and task completion.

Communication skills through:

- Encouraging verbal and visual sharing of ideas
- Developing confidence in speaking and answering questions
- Encouraging active listening, following directions
- Sharing in story time with small and larger groups, listening, questioning and becoming familiar with books.

Social skills through:

- Encouraging friendships and play entry skills
- Encouraging children to express feelings and ask for help
- Providing experiences where children work and play together and independently.

Independence through:

- Carrying own bag
- Accessing morning tea, lunch and drinks
- Putting belongings in lockers
- Writing and recognising names on labels, etc.

We believe children start school more confidently when they are capable learners and good problem solvers. At Wollongong City Preschool, we assist parents and children in the transition to school by including the following experiences in our program:

- Local school visits (classroom participation tours)
- Outdoor "School Lunch" with feedback to parents on how children manage
- (Big school) children are invited back to share their experiences
- We encourage positive attitudes to school through stories, photos and discussion.

We hope our program helps you and your child in their transition to school. Please talk to any of the educators at preschool if you have any questions about your child's progress.

The Wollongong City Preschool Team

