



CURRAJONG STATE SCHOOL

Getting Ready For Prep

Enrolment

To enrol your child for Prep in 2020 please complete the following and return to the school office

Or e-Mail to enquiries@currajongss.eq.edu.au:

- Education Queensland Enrolment Form
- Copy of birth certificate (if you need information on how to obtain a copy please refer to the Currajong SS website).
- Copy of any relevant court orders pertaining to your child.
- Copy of Visas where applicable.
- The 'Getting to Know Your Child' questionnaire.
- Any other relevant reports or documentation about your child that you feel will help staff provide a safe and supportive learning environment e.g. medical report regarding a health condition or a therapy assessment report.

Requisites for Prep

To commence Prep your child will need the following:

. Uniform, school bag, water bottle, lunch containers and hat - Currajong SS uniforms are available from Lowes

.The school also runs a second hand uniform shop. Please check with the school office for opening times.

. Items as per the Currajong SS booklist for Prep or payment of the school resource fee.

For full details on the uniform and requisites please refer to school website or Parent Handbook

Saver Plus

Is your child starting school next year?

Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

WOULD \$500 ASSIST YOU WITH EDUCATION COSTS?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for educational costs including:

- **school uniforms and text books**
- **excursions and camps**

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact The Smith Family for further details:
4728 6786 / 0418 201 533 or
nikki.storey@thesmithfamily.com.au



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Health & Development Checks

At Prep, children will need to be able to see clearly from a distance as well as focus on pictures and texts in books, IPADs or computers, they will need to be able hear and process teacher directions in a room with 24 other children, they will need to be well rested, alert and ready to learn. Consequently, it is timely to do some health checks (where needed) before children start Prep to ensure they have the best possible start.

As vision can change over time, if your child hasn't had a vision check in the last two years, make an appointment with your local optometrist. Most optometrists will bulk-bill this assessment when provided with your Medicare card.

If you have any concerns about your child's hearing, ask your GP or Child Health (44339000) for a referral for hearing assessment.

Parents of 4 yr. olds can use Queensland Health's Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) to check progress and pick up developmental issues in children. Early identification means children can be referred to services that will help ensure they reach their full potential. Contact Child Health (44339000) for more details.

If you have any other concerns about your child's health especially if it is a recurring issue and you feel this is impacting on your child's development please consult with your child's GP or discuss with a Child Health nurse.

Preparing Your Child for Prep

In the Year Before Prep

Out and About

Provide the opportunity to engage your child in some of the following experiences to help them cope with and prepare them for learning at Prep.

- Attend a local playgroup. Playgroups provide opportunities for children to develop in all areas but are particularly useful for social and language development.
- Ask a friend of your child or a cousin over for a play date. Encourage friendship skills such as sharing, taking turns, helping, listening and waiting. Give specific praise for appropriate behaviour - eg. "I like the way you waited for John to have his turn in the game, you were being a good friend". Sharing a parent's attention at home takes practise so make play dates short and successful until your child is comfortable to extend this to longer periods.
- If your child has not had a lot of practise separating from parent, arrange for them to be cared for by a friend while you go to the shops or an appointment. Establish a short good-bye routine and reassure them you'll be back to pick them up at a time they understand e.g. after lunch.



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- Visit the school so the child knows where it is and what it looks like. Point out where the Prep buildings and playground are. Take a photo of your child at school to remind them of the visit and provide a point of discussion about school.
- Join the local library - its free and allows children to experience a wide range of literacy materials including picture story books, factual books, audio books, magazines and DVD's. There's also an excellent parent resource section for Mum's and Dads. Attend story and activity times at the library to practise listening in a group.



At Home

Assist in your child's development by the following:

- Read to your child every day. If you are time poor enlist the help of an older brother, sister, cousin or Grandparent. Ask children questions about stories so they can relate elements of the story to their own life and gain a deeper understanding of the story eg. "Why do you think _____felt like that?" "What would you do if you were _____"
- Talk about environmental print such as signs, notices, letters, catalogues, magazines, TV guides, food packaging and bills.
- Encourage children to retell favourite stories and rhymes and recount significant events in their own life.
- Encourage your child to explore different ways to sort and organise areas, e.g. their bedroom, kitchen, play area, cubby. Label drawers and cupboards to indicate what's inside.
- Involve your child in family activities that investigate mathematical ideas, e.g. cooking, setting the table, measuring such things as water, grain and sand, sharing a meal.
- Provide a wide variety of materials for fine motor development by using tools including drawing with pencils, pens, chalk, sticks in the sand, cutting with scissors, using kitchen tools including spoon, fork, knife, grater, peeler, whisk, piping bag for icing, pastry and cookie cutters, craft activities, simple carpentry using screwdrivers and mini-hammers and nails.
- Establish consistent morning and bedtime routines. Ensure your child has adequate sleep. Good sleep is essential to growth, development and helps make a happy preppy too.



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Develop independence by encouraging your child to:

- put on their own shoes . use a handkerchief or tissue . go to the toilet independently
- use playground equipment safely . carry their own bag . identify their own belongings.

Closer to the First Day of Prep

. Talk to your child about what they will do at Prep. Go to the Currajong SS website go to Enrolments, Prep) and watch the *A Day in The Life of a Preppy* movie with your child. After, talk about the sequence of the day and what your child is looking forward to doing at Prep.

. Practise using their lunch box to ensure they can open it.

.Practise packing and unpacking their school bag

. Practise wearing the uniform for short periods at home.

. Read books about starting school. Some good ones include "The Berenstain Bears Go to School" by Stan and Jan Berenstain, "Annabelle Swift, Kindergarten" by Amy Schwartz, "First Day Jitters" by Julie Dannenberg, "I Am Absolutely Too Small for School" by Lauren Child, and "Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown" by Paula Danzinger

. Start going to bed earlier. One or two weeks before school begins, start rolling bedtime back to a school schedule. Begin slowly, waking your child up 15 minutes earlier every day and going to bed 15 minutes earlier each night until she is back on track.

. Assure the child you will be there ready for them at the end of the school day.

. For further ideas on how to support your child's entry to Prep go to the following websites:

PBS Parents: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/going-to-school/starting-school/before-school-starts/>

PLD Literacy & Learning Resources: <http://pld-literacy.org/product-category/age/3-4-year-old/>

(go to downloads tab and choose area of interest e.g. early years language)

Raising Children: http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/starting_school.html

Kids Matter: <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/early-childhood/resources/starting-school>

