

JUNCTION PARK STATE SCHOOL

Prep Information Booklet



ABOUT PREP

Prep was first introduced into Queensland schools in 2007. It is the first year of schooling and is a full-time program with students attending from Monday to Friday during normal school hours.

Prep provides the foundation for your child's success at school by developing:

- Knowledge, understanding and skills in areas including English, Mathematics, Science, HASS, Art, Music, Technologies, and Health and Physical Education.
- A positive approach to learning
- Independence and confidence
- Creativity and problem-solving skills
- Social and personal skills
- Physical abilities including gross and fine motor skills
- Active learning processes.

The Prep Curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum - Foundation Year (www.australiancurriculum.edu.au).

Our teachers support children's learning by making connections between school and their experiences at home, kindergarten, or childcare.

LEARNING IN PREP

In Prep, your child will have opportunities to learn in many different ways. This includes active learning such as play-based and inquiry-based approaches.

Children learn about:

- Speaking, listening, reading and writing
- Mathematics and problem solving
- Science - exploring living and non-living things, materials and their properties, how objects move and different types of weather.
- HASS - beginning to examine and enquire about the past to develop curiosity and imagination. We examine families and the significance and importance of celebrations and commemorations. Begin to explore familiar places by making models and maps with significant features and discuss what makes a place special for individuals and how this may differ for different people.
- Negotiating rights, roles and responsibilities while developing social skills for working and playing with others.
- Diverse social and cultural practices of people in their community.
- Making healthy choices
- Experimenting with materials in a variety of creative, imaginative and innovative ways
- Technology in everyday life
- Music and movement

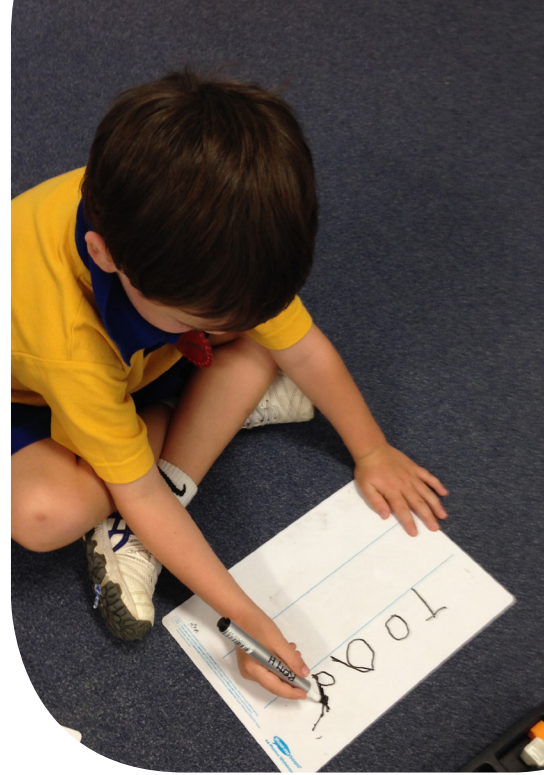


LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

When children start Prep they move to a more structured learning environment, but they continue to learn through play. During play, students will make decisions, solve problems, develop thinking and teamwork skills, communicate and develop a positive sense of self.

Types of play used to help Prep children learn may include:

- Manipulative - doing puzzles, making necklaces or construction
- Games with rules - playing board and card games or outdoor games with rules
- Exploratory - using blocks to investigate weight, height, number, shape and balance
- Fantasy - for example, children create props for space adventures
- Physical - moving through obstacle courses, climbing and running.
- Other activities like music, painting and drawing encourage language, reading and writing skills.



HOW YOU CAN HELP?

You can help your child prepare for their first year of school by:

- Bolstering their independence
- Having a daily routine
- Packing a healthy lunch
- Knowing the school and getting involved in school activities
- Improve your child's independence
- Before your child starts school, you should encourage them to be independent by helping them practice:
 - Packing and carrying their own school bag
 - Putting on their socks and shoes
 - Eating and drinking without help
 - Going to the toilet on their own
 - Using tissues to blow their nose
 - Recognising their name, so they can identify their belongings
 - Confidence to ask adults for help if needed
 - Washing their hands



DAILY ROUTINES

Daily routines can help children understand what they need to do, when to do it each day and why it's important. To help prepare your child for school, get them into a routine which includes:

- Going to bed early
- Waking up at a certain time - leave plenty of time to get ready
- Having a healthy breakfast - needed for energy and concentration
- Preparing and eating lunch
- Making time for physical activities.

Before your child starts school, make sure you talk to them about what they can expect in this new environment. Remember to be flexible, as it may take them some time to understand their new routine and to adjust socially.

SPECIALIST LESSONS

In addition to our exciting Prep curriculum, your child will also participate in specialist lessons. At Junction Park, we have weekly Art, Music, Library, LOTE (Japanese) and Physical Education lessons.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at Prep is very important as it maintains consistency in your child's education and allows them to maintain friendships while developing a good habit of attending school every day. If your child is unwell or unable to attend due to family circumstances (e.g. going on holiday) please contact the Administration office on (07) 3426 4333 to let the school know. You may also leave a message on the Absentee number (07) 3426 4366.

You can also use the QParents app which notifies the school as soon as you update your child's attendance records.





ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

If your child becomes ill or has an accident at school, the office will contact you. Please make sure you inform the office of any changes to your contact details. Please make sure you include at least one emergency contact that we may call if we are unable to contact you.

If your child is suffering from a contagious illness such as chickenpox or school sores, please keep them at home for the duration of the infectious period to prevent the spread of illness to other students and staff.

Please note that schools require medical authorisation to administer any medication to students including over-the-counter medications such as paracetamol. If your child needs medication while they are at school or involved in school activities, you must first complete a form that needs to be signed by a medical practitioner. In the case of prescription medication, the form should be signed by prescribing doctor. This form is available from the office and can also be downloaded from the school website.

REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE CLEARLY NAME ALL BELONGINGS to ensure that lost property can be returned.

Your child will also need:

- A backpack (school backpacks are available for \$45 from the uniform shop)
- Junction Park Prep yellow t-shirts (available for \$25 from the uniform shop)
- Junction Park school shorts or skorts (available for \$15/\$20 from the uniform shop)
- Junction Park broad-brimmed hat (available for \$10 from the uniform shop)
- Enclosed footwear (laces - only if they can tie their own laces, Velcro or straps - please no thongs, crocs, sandals, or heels). Please also make sure that your child is able to take them off and put them on by themselves.
- Home satchel (available from the uniform shop)
- A large, waterproof library bag (library bags can be bought or made)
- Morning tea and lunch in packaging that your child can open themselves.
We are not able to cut up fruit or re-heat food for your child. Please provide your own spoons and forks. Perishables such as yoghurt cannot be refrigerated at Prep. Please include icepacks in your child's lunch box to keep these items cold.
- Fruit break - please provide a piece of fruit or a small container of fruit or vegetables already cut up for easy eating.
- Spare clothes in bag
- Please apply sunscreen prior to coming to school.

The Uniform Shop is open on Tuesday mornings from 8:30am until 9:15am and on Thursday afternoons from 2:30pm until 3:15pm. It is located under Block C near the Gowrie Street entrance.

HEALTHY EATING

We encourage a healthy eating approach at Junction Park and ask that all chips, sweet biscuits, cakes, soft drinks and lollies be enjoyed at home and not included in lunch boxes.

Sandwiches, rolls, wraps, fresh fruit (for our fruit break), yoghurt, cheese etc. are ideal as they are healthy and easy for children to manage. If you give your child an apple, we suggest that it is peeled; cut into bite sized pieces and sealed in a container as some children find it difficult and time consuming to eat a whole apple.



DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

Start: 8:45am

Finish: 3:00pm

The Prep classrooms will be open at 8:45am. At the end of the day, please collect your child from the designated Prep areas.

Children must be accompanied to and from the classroom by a responsible adult and not a school-aged sibling. If you arrange for someone else to collect your child please inform your teacher at drop off time, or contact us by phone before pick up time.

Our Parents and Citizens Association run an Outside School Hours Care program. After School Care is conducted Monday to Friday from 3:00pm - 6:00pm at the school. Before School Care operates from 7:00am - 8:45am.

Vacation Care is also offered during school holidays and pupil free days from 7:00am until 6:00 pm. If you wish to enrol your child in the program, please contact Outside Hours Care on telephone (07) 3848 2620 or email oshc@pandcjpss.com

INCURSIONS

During the year, we provide a variety of in-school activities and performances to further enrich your child's learning. An invoice will be sent home for each event if payment is required.

NOTICES AND NEWSLETTERS

Most correspondence is e-mailed directly to you but it is still important to check your child's home folder each day and return it to the classroom. A school newsletter is published electronically each Wednesday. Throughout the year, your classroom teacher will also send home class newsletters and timetables.

If you do not have an e-mail address, please let the office know and we will send home printed copies.

MATERIALS LIST

Each year, a booklist is provided for necessary classroom requirements. A hard copy of this is available from the school office, the school website, or by going to Sequel Books www.sequelbooks.com. Please ensure all items are brought to school on the first day of school.

VOLUNTARY LEVY

We operate a Voluntary Financial Contribution Scheme at Junction Park. The total cost is \$120 per student per year and payment can be made in partial instalments. The scheme benefits each and every student and helps us provide your child with the best possible learning experience.



SCHOOL CONTACTS

Please contact the school office on (07) 3426 4333. Contact will be made with the Prep classroom with your message.

**Thank you for choosing Junction Park,
the School with Heart.**

If you have any questions or are looking for information about any matter not mentioned in this booklet, please contact the school office on (07) 3426 4333 or email: admin@junctionparkss.eq.edu.au

We are confident that your child will enjoy their time with us and have a fantastic start to their school life.



8 Ways to **Prepare** Your Child for **PREP**

1. Read **books** everyday.
2. Practice **letters and sound recognition**.
Practice saying the letters and their sounds.
3. Practice **number recognition**. Count objects up to 20. Practice counting backwards from 10.
4. Print **first name** with only the first letter capitalized and be able to recognize last name.
5. Develop **fine motor skills**: holding a pencil, colouring, cutting with scissors and learning to tie shoes.
6. Learn to follow **two-step instruction**:
“Please go get your shoes **and** then put them on”
7. Talk about **social skills**: sharing, taking turns, positive words and handling anger.
8. Help your child take responsibility: clean up messes, dress themselves, get their own socks.