

How can I help my child?

- Share information about your child with the teacher. This information is always confidential.
- Chat with your child about what they're doing at school.
- Visit the classroom for a brief chat or to take part in daily activities or special events.
- Encourage your child to experiment with various materials and equipment.
- Encourage your child to explore different ways to organise areas, e.g. their bedroom, play area, cubby.
- Read together and talk about everyday items such as signs, notices, letters, catalogues, magazines, TV guides, food packaging and bills.
- Read and talk frequently about storybooks, factual books and rhymes.
- Make available a variety of materials and containers for measuring such things as water, grain and sand.
- Involve your child in family activities that investigate mathematical ideas, e.g. cooking, setting the table, matching socks, sharing a meal.
- Provide "junk" materials for drawing, making patterns, and building things.



How can I get involved?

Your school recognises the vital role of parents in their child's education. There are many opportunities for you to participate in your child's learning.

Contact your school for suggestions on how to become involved in the school and your child's experiences in the Prep Year program.

To get a copy of the *Early Years Curriculum Guidelines*, and to read more about the Prep Year, go to QSA's website at www.qsa.qld.edu.au



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Learning in the Prep Year

Information for Parents

The Queensland Government has introduced a Prep Year of full-time schooling for children who turn five by June 30 in the year they start school. The Prep Year will be available throughout all Queensland from 2007.

International research shows the benefits of children taking part in full-time quality programs before they start Year 1. This research also shows that if children start formal schooling when they are a little older, they generally do better than their younger peers.

An *early years curriculum* has been developed specifically for use in schools with prep classes. The Prep Year builds on your child's learning at home and in other places like kindergarten and child care.

What will my child learn in the Prep Year?

The learning experiences in the Prep Year will help your child to:

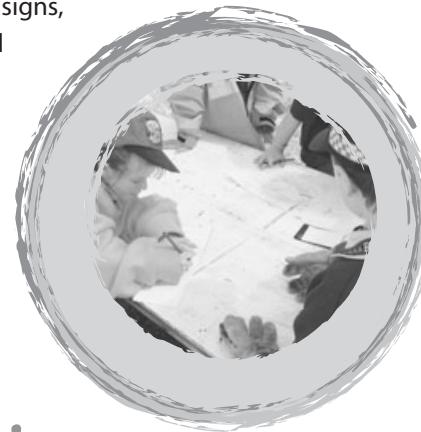
- take on responsibilities
- become more independent
- respect other people
- cooperate with others
- make sensible choices about their health and safety
- develop their physical skills
- develop their oral language
- develop their understanding of literacy and numeracy
- learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- use their imagination and creativity
- learn about their environment.



What will I see my child doing?

Your child will be:

- investigating interests
- making choices
- talking with teachers and other children
- planning with their teacher about the things they might do, and carrying out their plans
- designing and making things
- singing, dancing and painting
- listening to stories
- playing games indoors and outdoors
- climbing, balancing, jumping
- planning and sharing in make-believe play
- using computers to draw pictures, make signs, play games and find out about the world
- taking part in everyday experiences like gardening, cooking and tidying up
- writing and copying signs during their play
- learning about size, shape, weight and measurement as they construct things indoors and outdoors.



How does Prep help my child for Year 1?

The Year 1 curriculum builds on the curriculum in the Prep Year.

The curriculum in the Prep Year is designed to provide the foundation that children need for success in later schooling.

International research has identified several factors that influence success at school. These are:

- independence
- social learning
- health and physical development
- language development
- early understanding of literacy and numeracy
- ability to think and solve problems
- imagination and creativity
- a positive approach to learning.

