# 2016 School Calendar
## Queensland State Schools

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<tr>
<th>December 2015</th>
<th>January 2016</th>
<th>February</th>
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**School Terms**
- Week 1: 1 January - 31 January
- Week 2: 1 February - 25 February
- Week 3: 1 March - 31 March

**School Holidays**
- Week 4: 1 April - 15 April
- Week 5: 1 May - 15 May
- Week 6: 1 June - 15 June
- Week 7: 1 July - 15 July

**Public Holidays**
- Week 8: 1 August - 15 August
- Week 9: 1 September - 15 September
- Week 10: 1 October - 15 October
- Week 11: 1 November - 15 November

**Staff Professional Development Day**
- Week 12: 1 December - 15 December

**Final Dates for Student Attendance**
- Semester 1: 31 January
- Semester 2: 25 February
- Semester 3: 13 March
- Semester 4: 1 May
- Semester 5: 1 June
- Semester 6: 1 September
- Semester 7: 1 October
- Semester 8: 1 November
- Semester 9: 1 December

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)
Welcome to Oakey State School Prep

A Warm Welcome to all Parents, Families and Children

Welcome to Oakey State School's Prep Year. We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all the very best for the coming festive season and to say that we look forward to working with you and your child next year.

It is hoped that your association with Oakey State School's Prep Year will be a happy and beneficial one. We aim to foster the fact that children are active learners who seek to make sense of the world and explore patterns and relationships. They achieve this through investigating and playing with materials, ideas and people.

Prep, to a child, is a new world full of exciting things to do. Here your child will find new friends to share experiences with and adults who understand and care.

Whilst in Prep at Oakey State School, your child will have the advantage of interactions with the school's specialist teachers - i.e. The Arts, Physical Education, Library Teacher, Guidance Officer, Speech Pathologist and Support Teachers.

We look forward to a fantastic year!

Best Wishes,
From all the Prep team!
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SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS

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 has been available throughout all Queensland schools 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.

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.
- Join the Library

INSURANCE COVER FOR STUDENTS UNDERTAKING PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised that the Department of Education Training and the Arts does not have Personal Accident Insurance cover for students.

Education Queensland has public liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with the injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

It is a personal decision for parents as to the type and level of private insurance they arrange to cover students for any accidental injury that may occur.
What to Bring

Equipment:

• 1 wide brimmed hat- named in large writing or name tag (to be stored in your child’s classroom)
  *Reversible school hats are available for sale from the school office. These blue hats sell for $15.00 each, they can be reversed into the student’s school house colours (Blue, Green, Yellow or Red.*

• School bag - named (large enough to fit your child’s take home folder, lunch box, jumper and drink bottle)

• Small cushion in a drawstring bag for rest time - named (no pillows, sheets or blankets as they are too big to store in our classroom)

• Library bag - named

• Water bottle filled with water - named

• Lunch and afternoon tea in named lunch box

Stationery/Book List:

• 2 blue lined exercise books covered & named

• 3 A4 plastic display books - name on the front cover of one only

• 2 packets of 10 display folder refills A4 size - please assist the teachers by placing refills into the folders before bringing them to Prep

• 6 scrapbooks 96 page no lines (GNS Brand preferred) - covered and name on the front cover

• 2 Plastic Document Wallets with Velcro tab- name on front

• 1 packet of Crayons – BIC Kids Plastidecor

• 1 packet of Crayola thick felt pens

• 5 Blue Glue Sticks UHU 40g (these may need to be topped up through the year)

• 6 Whiteboard markers Texta brand (black, blue or green) - no permanent markers please)

• 1 set of headphones for computer use (NO microphone)

• 1 A5 drawstring/zip lock bag (to store headphones in) — named

• Scissors (if your child is left handed, please buy left handed scissors)

• Queensland Targeting Handwriting- Prep

• 2 reams of photocopy paper A4 white 80gsm

• 1 large box of tissues

Please name all items of clothing and equipment except for the items we have asked not to be named on the above list.

All lost or unclaimed items of clothing or equipment will be placed in the ‘Prep Lost Property’ box located in our classroom. Please check this box regularly for lost items. Any unfamiliar items which arrive at your home may belong to the classroom or to another child. Please assist us by returning these items promptly. Please remember we cannot return lost items to you if you do not name your child’s items.

Toys are not allowed at school unless they are for a special birthday, ‘Show and Tell’ or for a special day requested by the teacher. On these days the toys will be placed on the teacher’s desk. This is to avoid special toys being broken which can be very upsetting for children. Teachers will not be responsible for lost or broken items if they are brought along to school.

Spare Clothes

Please keep a full set of spare clothes, including underwear, in your child’s school bag at all times.
Lunch and Afternoon Tea

Five Most Important Things to Remember:

1. **Tins of fruit etc. with ring pull lids and knives should not be packed in lunch boxes, they are not allowed at school as they are very dangerous.**

2. We are unable to warm up or cut up food for students.

3. **Please send along fruit already cut up or peeled if this is how your child prefers their fruit, especially oranges and apples**—there are NO facilities for teachers to cut up food at eating time.

4. Ensure you have packed a spoon or a fork if required.

5. Pack a Healthy Lunch avoiding processed, pre-packaged and sugary foods as much as possible. This will help your child with their concentration, behaviour and learning.

Other Tips

Please make sure that your child’s lunch box does not contain dangerous items that may hurt them or someone else in the playground.

Check that your child is able to open and close their lunch box and containers easily on their own, as well as being able to open and handle the food easily. As the students will be out in the playground to eat, they need to be able to do as much as possible on their own without too much adult assistance. This also encourages and helps your child to be independent.

If you are going to send food in packaging that may be difficult for your child to open, when packing their lunch box snip the end off the packet or snip the side of the packet so that they can open it easily. (not yoghurts)

Trial new foods at home before sending them in to school to make sure that your child likes the food. It can be unsettling for students to suddenly find new food in their lunch box or food that they don’t like.

We encourage healthy food as much as possible and would prefer foods such as chocolate bars, chips, soft drinks, lollies and energy drinks are kept at home for treats. These are treat foods not everyday foods and are not the best choice for children’s lunch boxes.

Children are very active at school and are often more hungry than at home. A good tip is to pack a bit more than what you would normally give them. An extra sandwich is always a good idea. Children find it hard to concentrate when they are hungry.

Sometimes it is hard to gauge how much food your child may need. We will endeavour to let you know how your child is going with their lunch and if they need a bit more food or if they always have a lot left over. If you ever have any concerns about your child and their lunch, for example, if they don’t seem to be eating anything, please let us know as soon as possible.

If your child has any food allergies/intolerances or you do not want your child to consume certain foods or drinks, please inform your child’s teacher and write it on their enrolment form.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Prep Uniform
The Prep Year is another year of school therefore students are required to wear uniform.

Boys and Girls Uniforms:
The wearing of uniform to school is strongly encouraged. We like to feel that we are able to act
and look like a school and that the tone of our school is truly representative of our student body.
Polo shirts, sweatshirts, tracksuit pants and hats are available from M & M’s Fashions in Oakey.
For further information please check with the office.
The school offers boys and girls a choice of uniforms, which allow them to participate comfortably in:

- All curriculum areas
- All sports and recreational activities
- All playground activities

Girls and Boys:
Royal Blue bucket-style brimmed shade hat.
Royal Blue school polo style shirt with printed school badge and trim.
Royal Blue shorts.
Short blue socks and enclosed lace-up shoes or joggers.

Please have VELCRO shoes if your child cannot tie up their shoe laces.
THONGS OR SLIP-ON SHOES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Girls Dress Option:
Princess line with blue check Terylene. Plain darted with zip in centre seam, double pockets cut on
the cross 4” x 4”, rounded at the bottom, gold tie held on by blue school buttons. Material must be cut
with the line in check going down the body and sleeves.

Girls and Boys Winter:
Royal Blue Tracksuit

Hats
We have a “NO HAT, NO PLAY” policy. This means that unless your children are wearing hats
they will not be able to go into their play areas.
Sun visors are not considered appropriate for protection from the sun.
Baseball caps are not to be worn at school, please keep them at home for social use by the children.
Jewellery is not to be worn

All uniforms are available from:
M & M’s Fashions, Campbell Street, Oakey. Phone: 4691 1002.
Oakey Craft & Saddlery, 178 Bridge Street, Oakey Phone: 4691 2311
Lowes—Clifford Gardens Shopping Centre, Anzac Avenue, Toowoomba. Phone: 4659 0326
Daily Procedures/ Routines

Daily Timetable

**Bell Times:**

- 8:45am  
  First bell – Get ready for class
- 8:50am  
  Go into class – Session 1
- 11:00am  
  Lunch bell
- 11:00am – 11:20am  
  Play
- 11:20am – 11:35am  
  Eating time
- 11:35am – 11:40am  
  Get ready for class
- 11:40am – 1:10pm  
  In class – Session 2
- 1:10pm – 1:30pm  
  Play
- 1:30pm – 1:45pm  
  Eating time
- 1:45pm – 1:50pm  
  Get ready for class
- 1:50pm – 3:00pm  
  In class – Session 3
- 3:00pm  
  Last bell – school is released for the day

In the interest of supervision and safety, children **should not arrive at school before 8:30 am** and should be collected/ have **left the school grounds no later than 3:15 pm** each day. No supervision of students is offered before or after school.

**Prep Morning Start**

**FOR FIRST TERM** it is preferred that Prep students are brought into the Prep classroom by their parent/guardian/caregiver or by another adult nominated by you. Please do not leave Prep students alone outside the Prep classroom before opening time. If you do need to drop your child off at school before opening time due to unforeseen circumstances, prior arrangements with the teacher or office staff must to be made.

When you bring your child into the Prep classroom **please sign them in**, leaving a contact phone number for the day, and details of who is collecting them in the afternoon.

The classroom will be open from ‘**about**’ 8:40am, the bell goes at 8:45am, with the ‘go into class’ bell ringing at 8:50am, this is when we start the program. Children are to arrive on time so they do not to miss out on valuable class time.

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<th>He/She is only missing just...</th>
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<th>Which is...</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks/year</td>
<td>Nearly half a year</td>
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<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 weeks / year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
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<td>Half an hour per day</td>
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<td>4 weeks per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a half years</td>
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**Bus Students:**

When bus students arrive they will be walked directly to the under cover area by their eldest sibling at the school or a nominated older student if they do not have an older sibling.
Lunch Breaks and Play Areas

Students in the Prep Year will have their own designated eating and play areas supervised by staff at all times. At the beginning of the year play and eating times will be supervised mainly by Prep staff so that students are with familiar people. Throughout the year, the Prep students will make a transition to playing with other students in the lower school. This transition will be a slow process and will only occur when the Prep students show that they have the necessary independence and social skills required when playing with a larger group of students.

End of the Day Arrangements

Prep students must be collected from the classroom by their parents/guardians/caregivers. If you would like another adult to collect your child, you must inform us yourself (by letter, in person or by phone) prior to them coming to collect them. You may have an arrangement with another parent for them to collect your child on a regular basis and we are happy for these arrangements to occur. Please put such requests in a signed letter to your child’s teacher before the arrangement begins. In the afternoon, whoever is collecting your child needs to sign them out.

We understand that punctuality can sometimes be very difficult when you have a young family. However, we would greatly appreciate your efforts to be on time, especially to collect your child at 3:00pm. Your child will thank you too, as they can get very worried if someone isn’t there to pick them up on time. After this time, staff may be involved in meetings and class preparation. Therefore, any students remaining after 3pm will be taken directly to the office for collection from there.

In the afternoons when you come to collect your child please wait in the undercover/parade area until we open the door. It is not that we don’t want you in our room but it is because at the end of the day students get very excited about seeing you outside the windows and may become distracted whilst we are trying to finish the day. This also helps in sending children off with their parents and helps to avoid children disappearing out the door unsupervised.

If you need to collect your child during the day or before 3pm, you must go to the office first before coming to the class to collect them. You then sign your child out of the Prep class and sign them out at the office.

Supervised crossings are provided on roads near the school and for safety, these must be used. Please discuss and emphasise issues of Road Safety and Stranger Danger with your children.
Parents/Families in Prep

Parents and families play an important and valued role in children’s education, so we welcome your involvement in Prep.

You can help by:

- Visiting us and joining in the program
- Supporting and encouraging your child to feel good about his/her accomplishments
- Talking with us about your child’s interests
- Sharing your hobbies, interests, and expertise with the children.
- Reading all notices and newsletters.

Attendance

If you are going away on holidays or your child is ill please contact the school office. Also, if you are moving away and your child will not be attending the school anymore, please inform us as soon as possible.

We encourage your child to attend school everyday, EVERYDAY COUNTS towards your child’s learning.

Communication

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/FACEBOOK Our school values and encourages quality communications with you. We produce a weekly school newsletter “Our Weekly Chat” which is available via email, the school website or a copy can be collected from the school office. “Our Weekly Chat” is our most important source of communication and vital information is published in the newsletter. Families are urged to read it carefully.

To arrange to obtain your newsletter electronically via email, please contact our Administration team or email admin@oakeyss.eq.edu.au. The school newsletter can also be accessed from our school website www.oakeyss.eq.edu.au and is posted on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OakeyStateSchool

Throughout the year you will be kept up to date with what’s happening through the Prep and school newsletters and notices. Each class will also have a notice board with all current events and happenings. Each Prep child will have a take home folder, which they will put all notes in and take home on a daily basis. Please check this folder every day for any new notes and please return any required permission or response slips as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns or queries about what is happening in class or your child’s development the teachers are available for quick chats in the mornings between 8:45 and 8:55am or in the afternoons when you collect your child (if you would like to wait until the children have been sent off with their parents). This is the best time for a quick chat, however, if you need to see us for a more lengthy conversation or if before class is not a good time for you, please feel free to organise an appointment time with your child’s teacher.

If you ever have any concerns or questions feel free to contact us. Please remember that it is always best to talk to your child’s teacher first. Many issues can easily be worked out by doing this first.

Personal Details

Please notify the school immediately if any of your child’s personal details change throughout the year. If we need to contact you due to your child being unwell, it is often upsetting to a child if we can’t contact their parents or family.
Birthdays are Special!!

It would be appreciated if you could bring cupcakes if you wish to celebrate your child’s birthday with their class. This makes it easier for your child’s teacher for distribution, and for health and hygiene purposes. Please bring enough for every member of the class. Please remember to see your child’s teacher to make suitable arrangements.

Please be aware of children’s feelings when handing out birthday invitations, if the whole class is not invited this may upset some students. If you are only inviting a small group of students and not the whole class we would prefer you hand out the invitations privately or post them out.

Excursions

During the year some excursions appropriate to the children’s age level and interest may be arranged for Prep classes. To participate in excursions, written permission is required from parents.

Details of all excursions and permission forms will be sent out prior to the event. Permission forms along with payment, if applicable, are to be returned to the school office.

Sick Child

As most parents are aware, it is best to keep your child home when ill. A child suffering from an infectious complaint (e.g. Measles etc.), must stay at home for the period specified by the Health Department or the family doctor.

Please see Appendix ONE for Minimum Exclusion Periods for Infectious Diseases.

If your child has HEADLICE, they must be excluded until treatment is provided and the lice are removed. If you find live head lice in your child’s hair, please DO NOT send them to school until they are treated. Please inform your child’s teacher that so we can send out an alert notice to all parents to check their child’s hair. All information given to the school about your child and head lice will be treated sensitively and with total confidentiality.

Medication

Children are not allowed to keep any type of medication in their possession at school.

If it is necessary for any child to have medication at school, parents must -

A. Send along a letter of Authority from a doctor clearly detailing dosage and times of administration. A staff member will then give the medication. Medication must be in the original pharmacy container with the official label attached. All medications (including Ventolin puffers or similar treatment for asthma) and authority forms need to be handed in to the office by the parent.

OR

B. Come to the school at the necessary times and administer the medication to their own child. Schools are required to maintain a Medication Register, which is kept in the office.

Panadol, Aspirin, Cough Medicines etc. also need a Letter of Authorisation from the Doctor. Parents are asked to advise the school in writing of any treatment required for Asthma.
Money/Payment System

During the year there are quite a few money collections (performances, Book Club, excursions, swimming etc.). It would be appreciated if all money sent to the school is sealed in an envelope with the child’s name, class, teacher and amount of money very clearly marked on the outside. In this way we can ensure that all money is accounted for.

When making payments please have the correct amount of money, the school does not have the facility to have a lot of change on hand.

Place correct money in a sealed envelope with the student’s name, year level and the reason for the payment in the school payment slot, located in the school office front counter.

EFTPOS facilities are available, minimum payment transaction is $10. Not to disadvantage your child’s participation, please assist by making sure all fees are paid by the due date.

Tuckshop

Tuckshop operates on Fridays only. Students in Prep must place an order (on a brown paper bag with money inside) for both meal breaks. Prep students will not be able to go and line up to buy food from the tuckshop.

A menu and price list is supplied to every family, please check your Prep information package or the school website.

Please place tuckshop orders into the tuckshop in the morning before bringing your child into class. On the days that your child has tuckshop, please write it up on the board in your child’s classroom so that teachers know who has tuckshop each day.

Emergency Contacts

Please keep the school office informed of any change to your phone number, address, alternate contact names or your child’s medical condition. This is vital in case your child is involved in an accident at school. All such information is strictly confidential.

Please also advise us of any custody issues or orders, or any other issues which may affect your child’s security or safety at school.

Visitors to the School

At Oakey State School we welcome visitors and people who come into our school to work for or with our students to enhance student learning. To ensure the safety of these people and our students, it is necessary that arrangements for visits be made via the school office.

To maintain student safety and security, all visitors and volunteers MUST sign the visitors register located at the office.

Useful phone numbers

- Oakey Police 46911020
- School Watch 131788
PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Oakey State School has an active and supportive P & C Association, which meets monthly (with some changes necessary due to school holidays). Meeting dates and times are publicised in advance in the school’s weekly newsletter. Generally these meetings are held on a Monday of each month between 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Interested parents are most welcome to attend. Meetings also provide an opportunity to contribute directly to all school policies and provide a chance for parents to clarify issues and areas of concern.

Joining our P and C

The Oakey State School Parents & Citizen Association aims to improve educational facilities and to work together with the Principal and staff to foster parent/teacher co-operation and local interest in educational matters. The P & C meetings also provide a valuable means of social interaction and information sharing between teaching staff and parents.

Office bearers of the Association are elected at the Annual General Meeting each year in February. Meetings are not long and all parents are encouraged to join and have input into the improvement of their student’s school environment. The minutes from previous P&C meetings from the year are accessible from the school website after they have been ratified at a meeting.

Membership is open to all parents and interested citizens. All members of the P&C Association must be registered yearly. An official register is kept. There is NO COST. Registration fulfils the requirements of our ‘Voluntary Workers Insurance’.

TUCKSHOP

The P & C, with the support of volunteers, operates Tuckshop every Friday. This not only provides a service for students, but also raises much-needed funds to assist with school improvements.

A menu and price list is provided to every family and specials are advertised in the school newsletter. Details regarding tuckshop ordering procedures etc., is outlined on the Tuckshop Menu.

BOOK CLUB

The school participates in a commercial Book Club. A Newsletter/Order form is issued to pupils on a regular basis and orders can be placed before the closing date. These books are usually of good quality and are reasonably priced. The books can be ordered through the school but parents are under no obligation to do so (payments can be made by cash, credit card or cheque / money order made out to “Scholastic Australia”). The school receives a commission in way of free books, which are placed in the school library.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

Handwriting - Queensland Beginners Alphabet

We have included a copy of the Queensland Beginners writing that students learn at school. We encourage you to use this when writing your child’s name so that they will learn the correct formation of the letters from the beginning. It is also very important that you do not write in all capital letters, as we do not teach capitals to students until later in school and this is the incorrect way for your child to write their name. Once a child has learnt to write in a certain way it can be very hard to change or correct later.
The First Day/Week

It is our wish that the first day of Prep will be a happy occasion for your child. We will be working hard to make sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible. We have lots of smiles and lots of time. Our routine will be simple and consistent until the children feel confident and relaxed. Here are just a few hints to help make the first few days go smoothly.

- Have your child’s things, including their clothes laid out the night before, so that you are not rushing around trying to find things at the last minute.
- Have lunch packed - it can easily be forgotten.
- Be positive. Talk about the new things in a happy way. If you are nervous and apprehensive, your child will quickly catch it.
- If you feel like crying this is a perfectly natural response, however, try to avoid letting your child see you as they may think, “Gee, if Mum thinks it’s that bad, it must be terrible.”

DON’T SNEAK AWAY. Always tell your child that you are leaving and that you will be back after some definitive event e.g. after quiet time.
- If your child is uneasy, stay a little while until the other parents have left. Don’t prolong leaving or keep coming back to give them hugs. A short stay is best so that your child can start to join in and make friends. Most children settle in quickly and those who may be crying usually stop once you have left.
- If your child is upset when you leave, please remember that we will always call you if your child becomes too distressed to stay.
- Be on time to collect your child. They will be excited to see you and will be looking for you and may get upset if you are even a little bit late.
- If you have arranged for any person other than yourself to collect your child, please notify the office or teacher in writing or with a phone call.

A Child’s Thoughts on STARTING PREP

1. Please plan the beginning of the day so that I don’t have to be rushed to Prep, as I may become confused, or worried, or irritable.
2. Don’t push me inside the door and run. It makes me feel unhappy, as if you want to get rid of me. Come and look with me at all the interesting things I can do.
3. Please don’t slip away without saying good-bye or I will be afraid that you may leave me for good. When you leave, tell me when you will be back and try hard to be on time or I will worry.
4. Sometimes I spend a long time making something and I am proud of it. If you laugh or call it rubbish, half of it seems wasted, but if you show you value it too, it makes me feel happy and successful and ready to tackle more difficult things.
5. Visit the Prep classroom, and when you come I will feel proud to say to my friends, “That’s my Mum and Dad.”
6. Please don’t talk about me when I’m in earshot. I don’t miss much and I worry about what I hear. The teacher will always be happy to find somewhere out of earshot to talk with you.
7. When you come for me, please don’t ask the teacher if I have been good. I try to be, but sometimes things go wrong and I don’t want to be reminded of my mistakes.
8. What makes me feel good is if you show that you are really pleased to see me and are ready to look if I have something to show you, although I may not have something to show you everyday.

BUT MOST OF ALL…… JUST LOVE ME!
Beginner’s Alphabet

aA bB cC dD eE fF
gG hH iI jJ kK lL
mM nN oO pP qQ
rR sS tT uU vV
wW xX yY zZ

When writing your child’s name, please only use a capital letter for the first letter. Please encourage your child to do the same.

E.g Mary not MARY

Check that your child is holding the pencil correctly.
Teaching Correct Pencil Grip

Many of us find pencil grip difficult to teach. We twist their little fingers but they go back to their old positions once we move away. Try a story so they’ll remember for themselves:

Story:
The driver has to be comfortable so he has the main seat and waves to the other cars.
The thumb is the Driver’s helper. He helps guide the car and does friendly things like warning when a child is running.
The back-seat driver is naughty - he keeps wanting to drive the car, BUT you must put him back in the back seat.
If you hold your pencil too close to the tip you’re in the engine. If it’s too far back you’re in the boot. The driver sits in the front seat.
**APPENDIX ONE**

**MINIMUM EXCLUSION PERIODS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**FROM SCHOOLS, PRE-SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES**

*(based on National Health & Medical Research Guidelines)*

Note: The NHMRC recommends that children who are physically unwell should stay home from school and child care centres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Exclusion of Cases</th>
<th>Exclusion of Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)</td>
<td>Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campylobacter</td>
<td>Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Pox (including shingles, which is caused by the same virus.)</td>
<td>Exclude until fully recovered or for at least five days after the eruption first appears. Note that some remaining scabs are not a reason for continued exclusion.</td>
<td>Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for his or her own protection. Otherwise not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunctivitis</td>
<td>Excluded until discharge from eye(s) has ceased.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytomegalovirus Infection</td>
<td>Exclusion not necessary</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
<td>Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria</td>
<td>Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours later.</td>
<td>Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glandular Fever (mononucleosis)</td>
<td>Exclusion is not necessary</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Foot and Mouth Disease</td>
<td>Exclude until blisters have dried.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemophilus Influenza – Type B (Hib)</td>
<td>Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
<td>Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice or illness.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Exclusion is not necessary</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C</td>
<td>Exclusion is not necessary</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head lice</td>
<td>Exclude until day after proper treatment has started.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes (Cold Sores)</td>
<td>Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hookworm</td>
<td>Exclusion not necessary.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV/AIDS virus)</td>
<td>Exclusion is not necessary unless the child has a secondary infection, which requires exclusion in its own right.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impetigo (school sores)</td>
<td>Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza and influenza like illnesses</td>
<td>Exclude until well</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leprosy</td>
<td>Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningitis (bacterial)</td>
<td>Exclude until well.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal Infection</td>
<td>Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed.</td>
<td>Not excluded if receiving rifampicin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Exclusion of Cases</td>
<td>Exclusion of Contacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>Exclude for at least four days after onset of rash.</td>
<td>Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hours of their first contact with the first case they may return to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molluscum contagiosum</td>
<td>Exclusion not necessary.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>Exclude for nine days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parvovirus (erythema infectiousum fifth disease)</td>
<td>Exclusion not necessary.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poliomyelitis</td>
<td>Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringworm, scabies, pedic.</td>
<td>Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubella (German measles)</td>
<td>Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella, Shigella</td>
<td>Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptococcal infection</td>
<td>Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the person feels well.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Exclude until a medical certificate from an appropriate health authority is received.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)</td>
<td>Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority.</td>
<td>Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whooping Cough</td>
<td>Exclude the child for five days after starting antibiotic treatment.</td>
<td>Exclude unimmunised household contacts aged less than 7 years for 14 days after the last exposure to infection or until they have taken five days of a 14-day course of antibiotics. (Exclude close child care contacts until they have commenced antibiotics).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worms (intestinal)</td>
<td>Exclude if diarrhoea present.</td>
<td>Not excluded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For full details, please refer to the NHMRC’s publication “Staying Healthy in Child Care” available from the Australian Government Publishing Service or phone 132 447.

Cases of Amoebiasis, Leprosy, Poliomyelitis, or Tuberculosis should be discussed with your nearest Public Health Unit.

For further advice and information on these conditions, please contact your nearest Public Health Unit (Toowoomba – 4631 9888).

**INFECTION CONTROL IN STATE SCHOOLS**

**PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

To reduce the chance of infections spreading, the school follows strict safety, hygiene and first aid guidelines. It is particularly important that children with open skin wounds have these covered with fresh waterproof dressings before coming to school. Your co-operations is sought in this regard.

If head lice is detected in your child’s classroom an Alert Notice will be sent home with each child to be completed and returned. It is advisable to check your child’s hair each day before school for any signs of lice or eggs.

Your are encouraged to consider having your child vaccinated according to Queensland Health guidelines. Information can be obtained from Community Health or your own Doctor.
The Value of Play

Play Today?

You say you love your children,
And are concerned they learn today?
So am I- that’s why I’m providing
A variety of kinds of play.

You’re asking me the value
Your children are solving problems.
They will use that skill everyday.

You’re asking what’s the value
Of having your children play?
Your children creating a tower;
She may be a builder someday.

You’re saying you don’t want your son
To play in that “sissy” way?
He’s learning to cuddle a doll;
He may be a father someday?

You’re questioning the interest centres;
They just look like useless play?
Your children are making choices;
They’ll be on their own someday.

You’re worried your children aren’t learning;
And later they’ll pay?
They’re learning a pattern for learning;
For they’ll be learners always.

Leila Fagg