

Mimi Kindergarten

Transition to school programme

What is the Transition to School Program about?

The aim of Mimi Kindergarten's Transition to School Program is for educators to extend and enrich the wellbeing and development of all children within the transition to school program under the guidance of the service Educational Leader. Whilst working in partnership with families, educators use learning outcomes as a guide for planning for children's Learning.

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

An Ongoing cycle of planning documenting and evaluating the children's learning underpins the educational program and involves educators in critically thinking what the individual needs of the children are in order to best prepare them for the transition to school.

The Learning environment will provide rich and diverse resources that reflect children's social worlds whilst implementing experiences that develop the children's skills for school:

- Fine motor – scissor practise, handling pencils & rulers, manipulating and controlling various drawing implements, puzzles
- Maths concepts such as counting, categorising, sorting, and sequencing to demonstrate an increasing understanding of measurement and number using vocabulary to describe size, length, volume, capacity and names of numbers
- Developing children's listening skills to help them begin to understand key literacy and numeracy concepts and processes such as the sound of language, letter and sound relationships, concepts of print and the ways that texts are structured. While teaching skills and techniques and encouraging children to use technologies to explore new information that represent their ideas.
- Encourage children to engage in both individual and collaborative learning experiences
- Including a range of resources that enable children to express meaning using visual arts, dance, drama and music. Educators will teach children skills and techniques that will enhance their capacity for self expression and communication.

- Educators will motivate and encourage children to succeed when they are faced with challenges most importantly to develop positive feelings about themselves and others as well as developing confidence in their own ability to deal with change.

Additional School Readiness Experiences

- **Group Discussions** – This creates opportunities for educators and children to share their thoughts and ideas about school, educators respond to support children’s thoughts with a view to promote their understanding and expectations in relation to their transition to school.
- **Lunch box days** – Educators provide opportunities for the children to practice their self help skills that they will require during recess and lunch times for e.g. Opening their lunch boxes, drink bottles and to negotiate wrappings. This also promotes discussion about health, nutrition and personal hygiene practices. Dates will be advised later in the year and details will be forwarded to all parents regarding what you need to provide.
- **Transition to School Board** Is in place to ensure that the sense of community is carried forward. Children are able to identify which peers will be attending the same school. Educators encourage families to write their child’s name and what school they will be attending on the Transition to school board.
- **Transition to School Excursions Visits** – Children will be accompanied by educators and volunteer parents to visit the Local Public School to meet teachers and familiarise themselves with school surroundings. Where possible Primary Students will also visit Mimi Kindergarten to answer questions about school posed by the children.
- **Social stories** – We utilise social stories about school that are based on the school community.
- **Additional Needs** – Mimi Kindergarten promotes inclusiveness for all children and families into our service, Educators liaise with families, multi disciplinary agencies, and health care professionals to ensure that every avenue is explored during the transition to school process.
- **Preparing Little Hands for School-** Families will be provided with a booklet with examples and exercises to do at home.
 - Self Care Skills
 - Hand Strength
 - A good pencil grasp
 - Name writing
 - Foundation Writing Style
 - Drawing skills
 - Pre-Writing skills
 - Hand Preference
 - In-Hand Manipulation
 - Cutting Skills
 - Tips for left-Hander’s