

# **Churchill State School Prep Program**



## **TRANSITION HANDBOOK**



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CONFIDENCE

ORGANISATION

PERSISTENCE

GETTING ALONG

RESILIENCE

# Welcome to Churchill Prep ...

The Preparatory Year for your child is a new world of exciting things to do.

Here, your child will find new friends to share experiences with, and adults who understand and care.

## Goals of Program:

Prep is the start of the early stage of learning which continues until Year 2. It is available in all Queensland state schools and most non-state schools offering a primary program.

Prep is part of the whole school. Classrooms and other facilities are located in school grounds.

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

- the knowledge, understanding and skills detailed in the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and HASS (Foundation Year)
- a positive approach to learning
- independence and confidence
- creativity and problem-solving skills
- physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills.

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

## Prep Enrolment Interview

The Prep Enrolment interview is our chance to get to know you and your child. Please bring along your completed enrolment pack, questionnaire and birth certificate. Please don't be nervous and just encourage your child to be themselves. Your child will be given a short developmental screener to help us understand your child's strengths and areas for development to help us place them in the right class and inform our Term 1 Prep Program. This will be done by teachers during the Pre Prep program.

The following checklist will help prepare your child for schooling and their interview.

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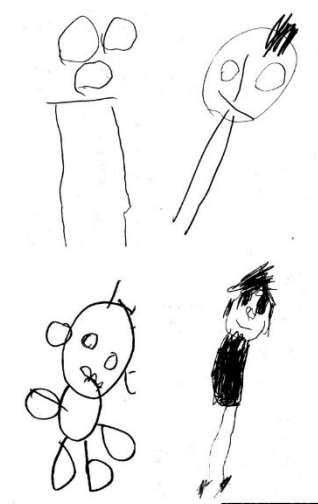
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## *Things your child should know before commencing Prep*

In order to help your child be ready for school it is important that your child can do the following:

- ☐ Recognise and write their own name
- ☐ Copy simple shapes with a pencil (circle, square, triangle etc)
- ☐ Know the alphabet
- ☐ Copy letters and even write some from memory
- ☐ Say their full name, address, age and birthday
- ☐ Draw pictures – for example, a person with a head with eyes, mouth and nose, and a body with arms and legs (see example below)
- ☐ Be able to approach and speak to an adult in times of need
- ☐ Understand the importance of rules, and the simple reasons behind rules
- ☐ Engage in cooperative play involving turn taking and sharing
- ☐ Put on and take off jumpers and shoes
- ☐ Independently go to the toilet, pull pants up and down properly and wash their hands
- ☐ Open lunch boxes/wrapped sandwiches/poppers etc
- ☐ Sit still for approximately for 3 – 5mins and pay attention when asked
- ☐ Follow basic instructions



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# 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 enquiry-based approaches. They make decisions, solve problems, develop thinking skills, collaborate, communicate and develop a positive sense of self.

Children learn about:

- speaking, listening, reading and writing
- mathematics and problem solving
- science, exploring interesting and important questions about the biological, physical and technological world
- HASS, beginning to examine and enquire about the past to develop curiosity and imagination.

Prep children also learn about:

- negotiating rights, roles and responsibilities and 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.

# Get Set for Prep

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

- improving their independence
- having a daily routine
- packing a healthy lunch
- knowing your school
- getting involved with your school
- doing family activities at home.

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## *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 shoes
- eating and drinking without help
- going to the toilet on their own
- using tissues to blow their nose
- recognising their belongings.

## *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 to expect. Remember to be flexible, as it may take them some time to understand their new routine and adjust socially.

## *School lunch*

When packing your child's lunch:

- provide healthy and filling food and drinks (not sweets and chips) in realistic quantities for munch and crunch, morning tea and lunch
- make sure they can easily open wrapped items and their lunch box
- provide a variety of smaller items instead of 1 or 2 large items
- provide a water bottle every day and encourage your child to use it.

Find information on the healthy food and drinks tuckshops offer ( <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/food-drink-strategy.html> ) in Queensland.

Contact your school ( <http://education.qld.gov.au/directory/schools/index.html> ) or check their website for more information on healthy eating for your child.

## Know your school

Help your child get to know the school environment and routine by:

- driving past and walking around the school—especially during school hours—so your child gets used to the number of children, and their movements within the school grounds. Check-in with the school's administration before walking around the school.
- asking the school what equipment and materials your child needs—like a school bag, library bag or hat—most schools will have a list. Make sure all possessions are labelled with your child's name
- show school Facebook pictures.

Before their first day, your child should know how to easily find their classroom and where to:

- put their things—like school bag and hat
- have their lunch breaks
- meet you each day when school is finished
- go for outside hours school care visit.
- Encourage them to ask a teacher if they need help.

## Family activities at home

You can also help your child's progress at school by doing family activities including:

- reading aloud (develops concentration and awareness of language patterns) and writing with them—e.g. shopping lists and letters
- stimulating their imagination and natural curiosity—e.g. visiting a zoo, park or airport
- playing sports, and card or board games—helps develop mathematical, problem solving, language and social skills
- shopping, walking or gardening together
- singing their songs and nursery rhymes together
- read online at 7pm Mon - Thurs

## Session Times

In 2018 Prep classes will commence in the first week of the school year. The Room will operate every day from 8:45am – 2:50pm

- Children should be brought to the Room and collected punctually in order to take advantage of the program planned.
- Staff should be advised of children's arrival and departure each day and also if a different person is delivering or collecting children or if children are being collected earlier.
- The school should also be notified if children are to be absent for any period of time.



## Clothing

Churchill State school is a uniform school. Uniforms are available to buy or to try on at Lowes Booval. Second hand uniforms are also available at the Tuckshop

- Hats are essential.
- A spare set of clothes should remain on hand in your child's school bag in case of emergencies.

## Treasures from Home

No toys from home are to be brought to Prep (with the exception of birthdays) this prevents any issues that may occur if things get lost.

## Sharing Information

Events in family life, such as major illness, visits by grandparents, a new baby, accidents or deaths of relatives, friends, can markedly affect children's behaviour. It is important for the home and Prep classroom to share such information. Sensitivity & confidentiality, however, will be respected if you wish.

## The Child's Prep Needs

**Please clearly name ALL children's belongings:**

- One small bag or port
- One wide-brimmed shady hat (essential with our hot Queensland sun) and preferably cloth, as they can be washed regularly. Churchill hats are available
- One set of spare clothes (in a named bag, and please include underclothes)
- One library bag with a drawstring top ( 30cm by 40cm)
- Healthy snack for munch and crunch
- Morning Tea & Lunch





# Parent Participation

Help your child get a good start to their education. Take an interest in their schooling, be positive about it and let them know it's important to attend.

Get involved with their school by:

- On your child's first day/s be punctual (both in arriving and departing). Be prepared to stay until your child is settled and when leaving say goodbye, then leave promptly.
- Visiting the Prep class and joining in the program: Mums & Dads will be more than welcome to join with our Prep program in consultation with the class teacher.
- Reading the notice boards, newsletter and follow us via Twitter and Facebook. Newsletters are received via email fortnightly and available on the school webpage
- Offering to share any hobbies, interests, talents or special skills.
- Assisting with the maintenance and beautification of the School Grounds.
- Collecting everyday materials to use in collage and carpentry.
- Using the new style Beginner's Alphabet when writing your child's name, etc (write on the top left corner of the page).
- Not discussing your child within range of his/her hearing, with anyone else.
- Supporting excursions. Occasionally children will be taken to places of particular interest and educational value. Your voluntary supervision will be sought.
- Supporting the P & C Meetings. This organisation assists in the smooth running of the School, creates opportunities for parent involvement in education and helps raise funds for equipment, outings, etc.
- It is Education Department Policy no smoking is prohibited on any school and outdoor or environmental education centre land (including sports grounds) owned or leased by the department and within 5 metres outside the boundary of the land



# Can you help by collecting these things for our Prep?

**Make 2018 an involvement year.... Let your child see you are interested in them and what they do? We hope that the time spent at Churchill Prep Program will be a happy and fulfilling experience for you and your child.**

- Ice-cream containers with lids
- Chinese take-away containers
- Wrapping paper
- Wallpaper
- Matches
- Paddle pop sticks
- Paper bags
- Cardboard rolls (not toilet rolls)
- Boxes
- Tubes
- Rope, hose
- Bottles
- Kitchen utensils
- Curtaining, rugs
- Yoghurt/margarine containers
- Ribbons, seed pods
- Fabric scraps, pantyhose
- Bright dress-up clothes
- Dolls clothes
- Tablecloth, old cushions
- Shells, beads, buttons
- Feathers, seeds, stones
- Xmas & birthday cards
- Washed egg shells & cartons
- Envelopes & stamps
- Wool, string, lace, cotton reels
- Nails, screws, bolts, tiles
- Sandpaper, alfoil, softwood, cutoffs, cork & bottle tops



# Queensland Beginners Font Alphabet

## QLD Print

A B C D E F G H I

J K L M N O P Q R

S T U V W X Y Z

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n

o p q r s t u v w x y z

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9