



Inquiry Based Learning



In the Early Years we believe in the importance of a multisensory approach to learning, providing students with the opportunity to work on their vocabulary skills, role-play real scenarios, take turns and increase their oral language. Our reception classrooms are connected to an outdoor learning area known as the COLA (Common

Outdoor Learning Area). We structure the resources available in the COLA to encourage students to play and explore small parts to stimulate their imagination, promote oral language and social skills. We provide open ended tasks through play to help students extend their thinking. Activities and resources are provided that align with our classroom learning and the Australian Curriculum.



Literacy



Our literacy program focuses on the Big Six components of reading: oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. These elements are central to our planning and are integrated throughout the day. At the Reception

level, we emphasise phonemic awareness, a skill that is essential for



reading and spelling success. We use the Heggerty Program daily as this practice has greatly improved our students' learning.

Phonics is taught systematically and explicitly through the Department for Education's Spelling Scope and Sequence. Learning is also differentiated through small group instruction and engaging, hands-on literacy activities, providing intellectual challenges for students requiring stretch and supporting those needing extra help.

Our site places a strong emphasis on reading. Students engage with texts daily in the classroom and are provided with frequent opportunities to practise and listen to reading. Our goal is to foster a love for reading and encourage reading for enjoyment. Students also work with their teachers to develop key reading skills such as blending, segmenting, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Once students have experienced the first unit of the initial phonics code, they will be given decodable readers to take home each day. These readers are carefully matched to students' sound and grammar skills, helping them build confidence in their reading abilities.

To assess and track early literacy development, we use DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills). It provides valuable data on foundational skills like phonemic awareness, letter recognition, and early decoding, allowing teachers to tailor instruction and ensure all students are on track in their reading development. Regular progress monitoring ensures timely interventions for struggling learners and tracks overall growth, supporting every student's progress toward literacy success.

Numeracy

Our numeracy program has a strong focus on providing students hands on play-based experiences. We do whole class, pairs and grouped games to support student learning and allow students to have fun through guided practice. We have students working in mixed and targeted ability groups to work on set tasks that relate to the learning topic during the week. We provide students with real life experiences and examples to help them understand the importance of numeracy in the real world.



Play is the Way (PITW)

We have a site wide focus on Play is the Way, a program that utilises a practical approach to the teaching of social and emotional skills. Using guided play, games and empowered language, the program supports the development of resilience, acceptance, compassion, empathy, courage, friendliness and good manners. PITW is underpinned by the Golden Rule “Treat others as you would like them to treat you”. To teach these skills and dispositions we use games and play based learning that we later reflect on through discussion. For example, we may discuss how in the game we had to “pursue our personal best, no matter who we worked with”. This time to reflect allows us to deepen our understanding of the PITW values and challenge students’ thinking. These values are also explicitly taught using Life Raft concepts which are a consistent part of our classroom practice.



Specialist Curriculum

In addition to the classroom learning program, Reception students access specialist teachers and programs throughout the week. Our current specialist subjects are:

Indonesian Language, Physical Education, Health, Performing Arts/Music and History and Social Sciences (HASS).