

Prep Year



WELCOME

Dear Parents & Carers,

The time has arrived for your child to attend the Preparatory Year. This often creates change and challenges for your child and your family. You will no doubt have many questions and we aim to give you the information you will need through this handbook, our school website and most importantly through your communication with our friendly, professional staff.

A sincere welcome is extended to you and we trust that your child's learning experience at Mango Hill State School will be an exciting and positive one supported by all members of our school community. We look forward to sharing in your child's learning journey and celebrating their successes together.



Get Ready for Prep



Mango Hill State School

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About Us

Our Early Year's Philosophy

At Mango Hill State School, we believe partnerships between parents, teachers and children are vital in developing confident capable learners, who through active engagement and participation, develop into lifelong learners.

As teachers at Mango Hill State School we strive to:

- Develop and maintain partnerships of parents, teachers and children.
- Develop a rapport with and an understanding of each child.
- Make curriculum decisions by planning, interacting, reflecting, monitoring and assessing.
- Appreciate the uniqueness of each child.



At Mango Hill State School, we are committed to providing quality learning interactions. Our P-2 Early Phase curriculum provides opportunities to:

- Value reading and writing and their role in developing and empowering each and every child in their life-long journey of learning.
- Implement explicit teaching practices such as delivering daily reading and writing programs, using a variety of methods, strategies and approaches.
- Continuously monitor and assess to identify learning needs.
- Expect high levels of achievement appropriate for each child.
- Focus children on what we want them to know and do. Model the love of literacy and numeracy.
- Immerse our classrooms in print.

“Our task, regarding education, is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible. No one can do more.”

Loris Malaguzzi



Our classrooms are warm, friendly supportive environments where we value:

- Respect
- Innovation
- Commitment
- Excellence
- Teamwork

As a school community we recognise our strengths are in our children, staff and families.



Our Aims

It is our aim to:

Build partnerships with parents, community and schools thus, developing the optimum opportunity for children to develop, learn and make an easy and successful transition to school.

Provide a programme that is both challenging and responsive to the diverse needs of the young child.

Continue to foster good and appropriate early childhood practices in all that we do.

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

- a positive approach to learning;
- independence and confidence;
- thinking and problem solving skills;
- language skills;
- early literacy and numeracy foundations; and
- physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills

“Once children learn how to learn, nothing is going to narrow their mind. The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another.”

Marva Collins



Our School Day
(Could be subject to change in 2018)
"Routine helps me feel secure"

8:00am	Children wait with parents/carers in front of administration or piazza.
8:15am	Bell to go to class
8:25am	First session starts
9:05am	Brain Food break
(approx.)	
10:15am	First break play time in Prep Playground
10:50am	Lunch eating time with Prep class and teacher
11:00am	Second session starts
12:35pm	Play in Prep Playground
1:05pm	Afternoon Snack in Classroom
1:15pm	Third session starts
2:15pm	Pack up time
2:30pm	Home time



What happens at Mango Hill State School Prep?

The First Day

We aim to make the first day at Prep a happy one for your child. We will be working hard to make sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible. We'll have lots of smiles, fun and laughter. Our routine will be simple and consistent, allowing the children to feel confident and happy in their new classroom.

Brain Food Break

Recent research into the brain and learning (Jensen, Joseph) has shown that learning can be enhanced when children consume the correct brain food and hydrate the brain with water.

Suitable foods for Brain Break include:

- Apple
- Banana
- Pear
- Strawberries
- Celery sticks
- Carrot sticks
- Dried fruits

Here are just a few hints to make the first day go smoothly:

- The school day starts at 8:15am - please be on time.
- Be positive. Talk about new things in a happy way.
- Familiarise children with staff names.
- Don't "sneak" away. Always tell your child when you are leaving and that you will be back at the end of the day.
- Once you have said 'good bye' and are leaving, please go as quickly as possible. The few upset children invariably settle down after that initial departure from Mum or Dad.
- Please do not hesitate to discuss any concerns or worries that you may have regarding your child's education with your child's teacher.
- Please ensure your child's brain break food is cut up and ready to eat.

Our Prep children are encouraged to:

- Participate meaningfully
- Develop a positive attitude to learning
- Have a sense of humour
- Use a variety of ICT
- Increase their vocabulary
- Form basic concepts in literacy and numeracy
- Use language to communicate
- Develop self-confidence
- Make friends
- Develop physical skills
- Negotiate and problem solve
- *and much more...*

The Prep Program

Our Prep classes have implemented the Australian Curriculum. We also refer to the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines provided for all State Schools by Education Queensland to ensure your child's holistic development. These curriculum documents provide us with knowledge and guidance to differentiate and meet the individual needs of the children while supporting your child to reach their potential.

Each class engages in hands on, age appropriate learning to develop the foundations of their future schooling success. Each day you will see the children involved in focused learning and teaching experiences, inside and outside activities, on their own, in small groups and with the whole class.

In addition to focused early literacy and numeracy opportunities, the children plan and negotiate with the teacher and aide, following areas of personal and group interest to learn more about their world and school life.

Our teachers will meet regularly with you throughout the year to discuss your child's progress. At these meetings you will have opportunities to view your child's work and discuss their progress. Meetings are usually held in Term 1 and Term 3. If you have any questions between times please make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher at a time convenient to both of you. A written report will be provided at the end of Term 2 and Term 4.

Arrival

- The classroom will always have the door open from 8:15am. Please feel free to come in with your child at this time before the formal session at 8:25am.

- Enter any child collection notices in the diary located at your Prep classroom. e.g. Grandparent collecting Amy today, Johnny is going to OSHC
- If you are staying for the session, or part of, please sign in as a volunteer at the office. This will not commence until later in Term 1.
- Encourage your child to unpack their schoolbag and complete their morning tasks.
- If you arrive at school before 8:15am, please wait with your child in the Piazza or alternately at the front of the school. We have blue lines painted on our concrete, to indicate where parents wait before 8.15 am and before collection at 2.30 pm. Our SOLE café is open to our parents before school each morning.

Departure

- To help children stay focused on the teacher, the door will remain closed until the bell. Please wait behind the blue lines until the bell rings at 2:30pm.
- Our Prep children wait, seated on the carpet, until you arrive at the classroom door.
- Our Outside School Hours Care facility collects all students booked into the After School Program from their Prep classroom.
- Should your family use our Look Out program, our Prep aides will walk your child to the Look Out program where remain supervised, until you collect them.
- If an older sibling collects your Prep child once their day has ended at 2.45 pm, please direct them to the Prep under cover area where our Prep children will be waiting for them, supervised by our staff.

Parents at Prep

Parents, caregivers and relatives play an important and valued role in the education of each child.

We welcome your involvement. You can assist by:

- Visiting the classroom as a rostered parent helper and joining in with our experiences
- Reading newsletters and noticeboards
- Collecting materials for collage and art
- Supporting excursions and special events
- Reading to your child daily
- Supporting us by talking with your child about their day
- Supporting our rules and consequences
- Informing us of any concerns, ideas or suggestions that you have

Parental roles and responsibilities

- Read all the information in order to be familiar with our policies, routines and practices.
- Clearly label ALL your child's belongings (e.g. **Peter Brown**)
- Discuss any concerns or questions with your teacher

Notify the staff of any changes related to address, phone numbers and emergency contact phone numbers

Birthdays

We celebrate each child's birthday in Prep. Please feel free to send along a cake or cupcakes on your child's birthday, or the closest day to it. Please check with your teacher the number of children in your class (and any allergies) to ensure we have enough for everyone to celebrate.



Recycled Materials

Prep would like your help in collecting recycled items to support our program. Donations of things such as cardboard, boxes, lace, fabric, paper and buttons are always welcome.

Your child needs...	Uniform	Lunch Ideas	Do not bring...
<p><i>to be well rested, well-nourished and well prepared each day</i></p>	<p>Uniform & Hat Include spare pair of underwear.</p> <p>School Bag Encourage your child to be responsible for packing their belongings, into their bag each day to develop independence</p> <p>Library Bag Large enough to hold large picture book.</p> <p>Prep Book Bag Provided by the class teacher.</p>	<p>Label items to be placed in the fridge with your child's name</p> <p>Sandwiches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardboiled Egg mixed with salad dressing • Cheese grated or sliced with crushed pineapple • Cottage Cheese mixed with: cucumber, tomato or chopped fruit • Baked Beans with chopped onion & raisins • Tuna with salad dressing, chopped celery, sliced apple or raisins • Chicken sliced or chopped with salad dressing and shredded raw greens <p><i>Please provide all the necessary items for your child to eat their lunch (e.g. cutlery)</i></p>	<p>Tins & Cans Difficult for little fingers to open and can produce sharp edges.</p> <p>Reheat We do not have the facilities to reheat or microwave food for students.</p> <p>Toys & Treasures Children are usually very upset when they get lost or damaged. Leaving them at home saves undue stress and upsets.</p>