

West Leederville

P r i m a r y S c h o o l



Kindergarten 2018

**Giving every child
every opportunity**

2018



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Introduction

Thrive, learn, grow and shine

Starting kindergarten is a major milestone for you and your child and the start of a new phase of life for you both.

Your child's first years of school will be exciting and engaging and this booklet will help make the kindergarten experience at West Leederville Primary School as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

The Early Years Learning Framework and the Kindergarten Guidelines underpin our WLP's Kindergarten program. The teaching and learning environment has a balance between intentional play-based learning and explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy skills.

Each group will be taught by an experienced early childhood teacher and an Education Assistant who both have a wealth of knowledge about how children learn, grow and develop. The learning environment is a happy, safe and stimulating place, where individual needs and differences are catered for. Our aim is to form a trusting, respectful and caring relationship with each child and each family.

Your child will be introduced to a range of age-appropriate and motivating topics in the learning areas of English, mathematics, the Arts, science and history and geography. These sessions are child centred and hands-on learning experiences designed to build on current knowledge and skill level.

It is widely recognised that a powerful way young children learn is through play. Play is both active and interactive and it fosters children learning together. Children use play to develop their relationships, to experiment, imagine, create, practise, problem solve and role play. Play is directed and intentional as per Nation Quality Standard (NQS) and Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) guidelines.

Your child and family are very important new members of the school community- welcome to West Leederville Primary School!

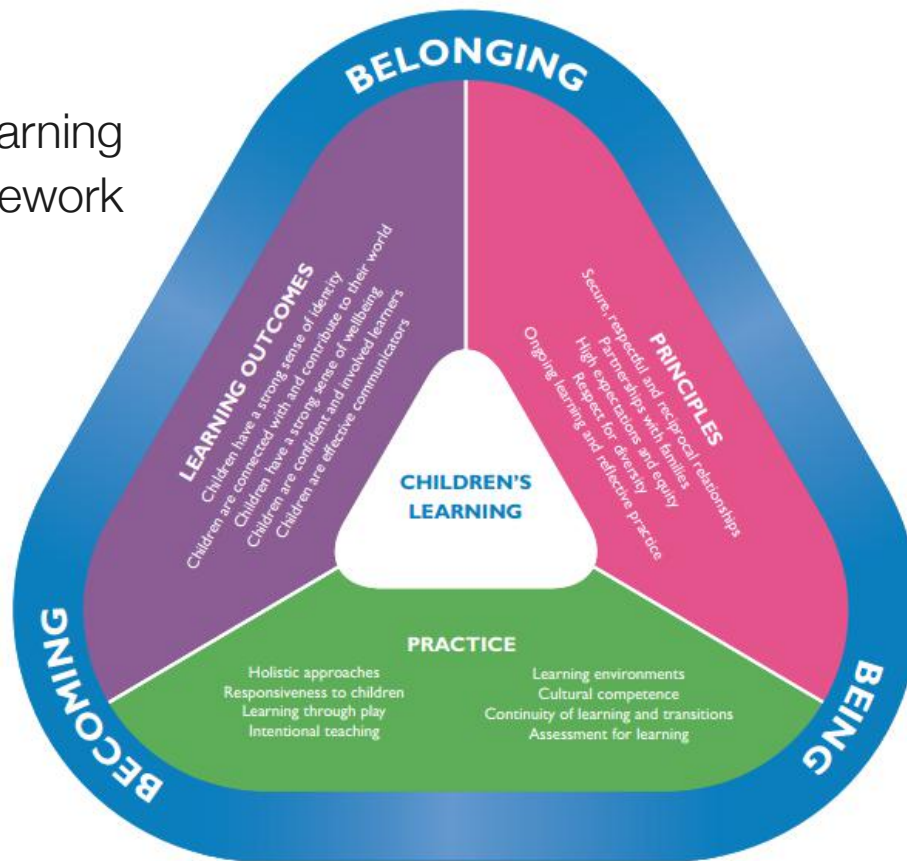
National Quality Standard

The Australian Government has recognised the importance of increasing the focus on the early years to ensure the well-being of children throughout their lives and to lift the productivity of our nation. The drive for change is based on clear evidence that the early years are very important for present and future health, development and well-being. A National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care has been developed. This sets the National Quality Standard (NQS) that all early childhood programs, including schools from years K to 2, must meet. There are 7 quality areas: educational program and practice, physical environment, children's health & safety, relationships, collaborative partnerships with families and communities, staffing and leadership.



Our Curriculum

Early Years Learning Framework



This figure is a diagram showing the relationship between outcomes, principles and practice which centres on children's learning. The three themes of Belonging, Being and Becoming are included, thereby overlapping all of these elements.

Classrooms are designed to welcome your child, spark their imagination and arouse their thinking. They feature colorful displays of children's learning materials, artwork, books and construction materials.

All children enter kindergarten with different skills and experiences. Teachers develop appropriate teaching programs catering for the student's individual needs and following the National Curriculum and Early Learning Years Framework.

The Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum are complementary and articulate a pathway of learning. These both recognise that personal and social competence, health and well being and literacy and numeracy should be core focused areas for young children's learning.

Fundamental to the Framework is a view of children's lives as characterised by belonging, being and becoming.

Belonging

Belonging acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of belonging.

Being

Being recognises the significance of the here and now in children's lives. It is about the present and them knowing themselves, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life.

Becoming

Children's identities, knowledge, understandings, capacities, skills and relationships change during childhood. Becoming reflects the process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow.

Getting ready for kindergarten

There's a lot you can do to prepare your child, and yourself, for kindergarten. The first day of school can be an emotional time for parents and children.

The more you can help your child to become familiar with the layout of the school and what they need to do before day one, the less overwhelmed they are likely to feel.

Before school starts

The summer holidays before the start of the school year are a great time to:

- show your child where the school is and talk about how you will get there;
- arrange playtimes with other families whose children will be going to WLPS- it helps if your child knows another child at school;
- practise the things your child will need to do to get ready for school (putting things in their bag, remembering to take a hat);
- confirm your before-school, after-school and vacation care arrangements; and
- be positive about starting school and enjoy your child's excitement.

The night before kindergarten starts

Lay out your child's clothes, shoes and socks.

Establish a sleep routine. You may find your child needs more sleep when they start kindergarten. Try to establish a nightly routine with a set bedtime to ensure your child is well rested.

Life at School

Kindergarten classrooms are happy, exciting and bright places. Children might complete puzzles with friends on the floor, play in a cubby house, listen to their teacher read a book or sit at a desk to write and draw. They will sing and learn about science, numbers, shapes and patterns and do many other activities.

The first days of kindergarten

Help your child to pack their school bag with a piece of fruit, drink, lunch and a hat. Place a change of clothes with a spare pair of underpants in a plastic bag. Let your child know these clothes are in the bag in case of any accidents. Put sunscreen on your child in the morning if it is needed. At the end of the day talk to your child about what happened at Kindergarten.

Dressing for school

WLPS have our own kindergarten uniform which can be ordered online (wlp.wa.edu.au) or on Thursday mornings between 8.30am and 9.15am in the school hall (main school campus).

A named broad brimmed hat is to be supplied. We encourage kindergarten children to wear the school uniform hat as it complies with our sun-safe policy.

Look for easy fasteners when choosing belts, shoes and bags.

Encourage your child to dress themselves so they will be able to manage their jumpers and shoes at kindergarten.

Looking after belongings

Label all your child's belongings and show your child where these labels have been placed.

In the event of lost property check with the class teacher.

Beginning kindergarten

The beginning of the school year

All kindergarten sessions commence at 8.45am.

Children are encouraged to arrive with an adult just prior to the start of the sessions. Try to leave home with plenty of time to get settled before the school day starts.

Make sure you allow time to say goodbye and for your child to join others at play inside.

Saying goodbye

At first you might like to stay for a while until your child feels secure at school. Once your child has settled into class, a short and reassuring goodbye encourages independence. Always tell your child that

you are leaving and who will be picking them up at the end of the day.

Picking up children at the end of the day

The kindergarten session concludes at 2.45pm.

The students sit inside on the mat until staff sight their parent and call the child's name. Parents need to wait for their child to be called and allow the children to exit a few at a time. This is important for staff to ensure that all students are accounted for and are safely collected by their nominated person.

Students will only be allowed to go home with their parents or nominated adults. If someone else is to collect your child, notify the staff as well as writing the details on the notice board collection sheet.

Please ring the centre if you know you are going to be late or if arrangements change, so that we can let your child know and prevent them from becoming worried or distressed.

Session Times

8.45am- Start of kindergarten session

2.45pm- End of kindergarten session

Semester 1	
Term 1	Wednesday, 31 January- Friday, 13 April
Term 2	Monday, 30 April- Friday, 29 June

Semester 2	
Term 3	Monday, 16 July- Friday, 21 September
Term 4	Monday, 8 October- Thursday, 13 December

WJPS PUPIL FREE DAYS

- * Monday, 29 January
- * Tuesday, 30 January
- * Thursday, 31 May
- * Friday, 1 June
- * Monday, 8 October
- * Friday, 14 December



Practical matters

During the kindergarten year

We encourage you to keep in regular contact with your child's teacher to discuss activities your child is involved in, find out how they are adjusting to school and assist the teacher to find out more about what your child's interests are. Keep the teacher informed of any changes in your child's life that may impact on their work or enjoyment of school. Kindergarten teachers are sensitive to the needs of young children and are there to help and guide them.

Keep talking to your child about kindergarten, ask them about their new

experiences, what they like and what they find difficult. Organising time for your child and their new friends to play together outside of school will help to cement relationships.

Attendance

We are pleased to offer you a 'staggered' start time on your first day of kindergarten. This strategy enables us to give you and your child some individual attention on arrival. As early childhood educators, we recommend half days for the first week and a three quarter day for the second week. We believe this phasing in period creates a positive experience for your child and allows them time to

settle in. We know happy children are happy learners! We are open to negotiation with parents if you need to leave your child at kindergarten for the full day, or if you feel your child needs a longer phasing in period.

Taking an interest

Taking an interest in what your child does at school, helping in class and being part of the school community show your child how much you value school.

PHASING IN PERIOD OVER FIRST TWO WEEKS 2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1					
Mrs Terry	School PL Day Students do not attend	School PL Day Students do not attend	31 st Jan Staggered start Individual times Bring water & fruit	1 st Feb Staggered start Individual times Bring water & fruit	2 nd Feb 8:45am-12noon Bring water & fruit
Week 2					
Mrs Terry	5 th Feb 8:45am-1pm Bring: Fruit/drink/lunch	6 th Feb 8:45am-1pm	7 th Feb 8:45am-1pm	8 th Feb 8:45am-1pm	9 th Feb 8:45am-1pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1					
Mrs Wilson	School PL Day Students do not attend	School PL Day Students do not attend	31 st Jan Staggered start Individual times Bring water & fruit		
Week 2					
Mrs Wilson	5 th Feb 8:45am-1pm Bring: Fruit/drink/lunch	6 th Feb 8:45am-1pm Bring: Fruit/drink/lunch			

Once enrolled in kindergarten, it is important that children develop regular attendance habits. Going to kindergarten, pre-primary and year 1 each day gives children the best start to school. If your child attends school regularly in the early years, they are more likely to continue this in the future.

Teachers plan programs sequentially, so when children don't attend school regularly, they miss out on important information, learning and skills. Children who are regularly absent risk missing out on the basic building blocks in core learning areas.

If your child is absent from school, please notify the classroom teacher by phone or email. Alternatively you may contact the office staff on 93811655; via email; the school website which has the facility to notify us of any absences via the home page, or the WLPS school app skoolbag.com.au.

What food to bring

The students have a shared mid-morning fruit break every day. This is a routine which provides for social learning where the children are encouraged to use acceptable table manners, to wait, take turns and to talk and chat to their peers.

Students are asked to provide **a piece of fruit each day** and we love to try new and unusual fruits. You

may also send healthy alternatives such as dried fruits, cheese, bread sticks or rice crackers, vegetables and dips.

Each day the students will need to bring a packed lunch in a named container. Ensure your child can manage to undo any food wrappings, containers, lunch boxes and drink bottles. Each student is to be supplied with a named drink bottle which they can open and close independently.

For the protection of children with allergies, please support our 'Nut Aware' policy by not bringing products containing nuts or traces of nuts to school.

Notes between home and school

Notices will be placed on the notice boards at the centres, but your child's bag should be checked each night for notes from school. Make sure your child knows when you place a note in their bag and what needs to be done with it.

Parents of separated families are encouraged to agree on methods of communication between home and school so the child is not adversely affected.





What to bring to kindergarten each session

- Large backpack (40cm x 30cm)
- Piece of fruit, vegetable, cheese or crackers to share for morning tea
- Lunch
- Hat
- Drink bottle- filled with water only
- Spare set of clothes (for occasional)

Travelling to and from school

Parking at both schools is at a premium. Car pooling or walking is a great option. Council rangers patrol areas around schools and it is advisable to take note of any parking restrictions. Younger siblings should not be left unattended in cars during drop off and pick up times.

If possible, please make medical/ dental appointments outside of school hours.

School Development Days

Schools have pupil-free days each year for staff professional development and school planning. Students do not attend school on these days. The term dates for students in 2015 are as outlined in the table on page 7.

Outside school hours care

Operating out of WLPS, Camp Australia Childcare provides before and after school care. Children at the Lake Monger Kindergarten site are also catered for by Mulberry Tree, with a bus ferrying students from WLPS to their Lake Monger Primary School base, if required.

Further details of the services offered by these childcare providers are available on our website and are as follows:

Contact Camp Australia West Leederville OSHC on info@campaustralia.com.au or 1300 105 343.

Mulberry Tree Lake Monger OSHC on Wembley.kidsclub@mulberrytree.com.au or 0429513537

Uniforms

The kindergarten students are encouraged to wear the bright coloured T shirts in summer and windcheaters in winter, which are part of their uniform.

Uniforms can be purchased online via our website wlp.wa.edu.au or directly from the School Uniform shop. The shop is operated by a sub committee of the P&C and is open for direct sales on the first Thursday mornings of each month, from 8.30am to 9.15am, in the school hall. Orders placed online can be collected from the school office.

Contact details

The safety of all students and staff is paramount. In case of an emergency, it is important that the school has your current contact details. Details can be updated via the weblink on our website, or via the WLPS school app.

Birthdays

We are very happy to celebrate your child's birthday at kindergarten and you are welcome to bring a large cake, individual cup cakes, ice cream cones or icy poles (depending on the weather) to share on your child's birthday. You are welcome to come on roster for the day of the birthday, or even just join us for morning tea if you would like to. When catering

for the class remember there will be at least 20 serves required and check with staff beforehand if there are any allergies or cultural needs to be catered for.

Voluntary Contributions

The West Leederville Primary School Board endorses the schedule of Contributions and Charges each year. The schedule is broken into five sections and will allow you to calculate all costs that may be incurred throughout the year. The costs outlined are maximums that the school will not exceed and actual costs for most parents will be well below these figures. The schedule is supplied to all students and is available on the school website. The P&C also ask that you support the school by paying their voluntary contribution annually. The West Leederville Primary School community are involved in a number of fund raising activities which require your ongoing support.

Information and Communication Technology

West Leederville Primary School is leading the way in digital learning. Children are engaged by new technology and many are confident users of it. Knowing how to use technology helps children with the fundamental skills of reading, writing and mathematics, and also forms part of the skill set children need for life in the 21st- century.

West Leederville Primary School is a technology-rich environment, with students using computers, iPads, iPods and a range of online resources and software in the learning areas. During the year, kindergarten students are introduced to the various applications.



Support for students

Government schools are for all children. Diversity among students and their families is recognised and welcomed.

All school staff and teachers are committed to working with you to provide every possible assistance and support for the wellbeing of your child. Services are available to support students who have additional learning and other needs including school nurses, psychologists, speech pathologists, social workers, school chaplains and other related professionals. These professionals are involved in a range of activities, including student and family support, assessment, crisis response, consultation with school staff, group work and the facilitation of early intervention programs in schools.

If you would like any further information regarding support services, ask your kindergarten teacher for advice.

keep them at home, as we have a lot of children that can be affected.

Please keep your child away from school and see your doctor if your child has:

- a fever of 38°C or above
- vomiting or diarrhoea
- severe cold or flu symptoms
- rashes of unknown origin

Immunisation

When enrolling a child in kindergarten, or transferring between schools, parents need to bring their child's immunisation records to the school.

Children who are not immunised can still attend school; however, if an outbreak of an infectious disease occurs at the school, parents will be asked to keep the children at home, until the danger has passed. You can get your child's immunisation status online at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/online-services/ If your child has contracted a communicable disease such as chicken pox or measles, the school should be notified as soon as possible after the diagnosis has been confirmed.

Medical conditions

If your child has a medical condition, upon enrolment you need to inform the teacher and the Principal. In particular the school should be informed if your child has epilepsy, haemophilia, asthma, diabetes or severe allergic reactions to bee stings or certain foods, etc. All children with a significant medical condition or illness will have a health support plan developed based on the medical advice from your child's doctor.

Health and medical information

If your child is sick at school

If your child gets sick or is injured at school, we will contact you and seek the necessary medical attention. You will be called to come and collect your child if they are too sick to remain in class. For this reason, it is important to keep your current contact details with the school. Contact details can be updated via the school's webpage.

If your child is sick at home

If your child is obviously unwell or you think they are becoming unwell, please err on the side of caution and



Medication

Sometimes children need to have medications during the day and whilst it is preferable for parents to administer them, we are able to do so when you have given us adequate information. The medication should be handed to the teacher and a medication request form filled in.

Allergies

If your child has an allergy you must alert administration upon enrolment and advise the class teacher. An allergy action plan which has been developed by your doctor, along with your child's medication, including a labelled EpiPen if prescribed, must be provided to the school.

Head lice

It is common for school children to get head lice at some time and it has nothing to do with being clean or dirty. Head lice can spread when children are in close contact, but head lice do not cause any harm to your child's health.

To prevent your child getting lice:

- check your child's hair regularly
- keep long hair tied back

If your child has head lice:

- remove tangles with a large comb, then comb hair with a thick, white hair conditioner using a fine-tooth comb to get rid of head lice and their eggs (nits) daily until there are no more eggs.
- continue to send your child to school
- inform the school so they can ask others to check their children's hair; your child does not have to be identified.

For more information:

http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/261/2/head_lice_fact_sheet.pm

Allergies

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction to foods such as nuts or shellfish, or insect bites. If your child suffers from any food allergies it is important that you inform the school administration and classroom teachers. We ask parents not to send foods containing nuts, sesame seeds or shellfish to school to prevent other children being put at serious health risk.



Being involved

Children love to see their parents and carers at their school, whether helping out in the classroom, canteen or being involved in other ways. Research shows that students perform better at school when their parents or carers take an active interest in their school work. Your contribution to the school is needed and valued.

In order to provide a wide range of experiences and to give the children the attention they need, help is required to prepare for the activities we provide. If you have special skills or hobbies you would like to share, let us know so you can help to enrich our program.

Rosters are displayed on the notice board and we encourage you, your partner, or grandparents and relatives to be involved. Hopefully, each child will have someone come along at least once a term. The children get a great deal of pleasure and pride when you come to a kindergarten session and it is a valuable opportunity for you to see how your child is developing and growing in a school setting. All family members who would like to participate in school activities will be required to sign a confidentiality declaration available from the classroom teacher or school office.

We have a roster to take home a bag of laundry (tea towels, aprons, dress ups) at the end of the week. We really do appreciate your help.

Ways you might like to get involved:

Volunteers

- help in the classroom
- participate in the laundry roster
- listen to children read
- help with school excursions
- volunteer to be the Class Parent Representative

P&C

The Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C) at our school is involved in making decisions about the school and how it spends the funds it raises. If you can't get involved in the P&C meetings you can get involved in other things for the school, such as fundraising and social events. P&C meetings are held in week 3 & week 8 of each term in the school library, commencing at 7.30pm.

School Board

In 2012, WLPS became an Independent Public School. Independent Public Schools set their own strategic directions, have authority for day-to-day decision making and are in an ideal position to make decisions that best cater for their students. Parents and community members have an important and enhanced role in this initiative through the School Board.

The School Board meets week 2 & week 7 of each term. Details of our current Board members are available on the school website. Notice of the upcoming elections to the School Board will be indicated in the school newsletter and on the school website.

Tips for getting involved

- use the internet to keep up-to-date with your child's learning and to communicate with teachers
- subscribe to our skoolbag app and Facebook page
- read the school newsletter and other school notices
- attend the school Open Day, family events and other special activities at school
- help out with fundraising activities, sports days, excursions and other events
- be involved with the School Board or parent social occasions.

Staying informed

The following communication channels are available so you can be kept informed of your child's experience at school. You can also arrange meetings with class teachers or the Principal throughout the year.

School newsletters

The school newsletter is produced fortnightly and published on the website. The newsletter contains important dates and promotes student achievements. In order to receive the newsletter, parents are requested to subscribe via the WLPS website www.wlps.wa.edu.au.

A community newsletter is published in conjunction with the school newsletter and a P&C newsletter once or twice a term.

Parents are emailed the newsletter links at the time they are published. In order to ensure families receive the school newsletter it is imperative that we are kept informed of current email addresses.

School App

Recently introduced to WLPS, Skoolbag is a school Mobile App that communicates directly with iPhone and Android devices. Skoolbag provides an easy way for schools to tell parents/carers information they need to know, and provides parents with a convenient way to receive school notifications, newsletters, school notices and alerts.

Instructions on how to download the Skoolbag app are at the following link:
<http://www.skoolbag.com.au/forparents.php>

Facebook page

Our school's Facebook page allows our community to keep up to date with activities through a medium preferred by many. For anyone wishing to use our Facebook page, the best way to receive the updates is to visit www.facebook.com/WestLeedervillePS and press the thumbs up 'Like' button. This way when we post updates, you'll receive them in your page. Please also read our Facebook Code of Conduct on our website; it is important you understand how we believe the facility can be used best.

P&C Parent Rep Contact List

A P&C initiative to promote parent involvement in the school community has been to introduce Class Parent Representatives.

These parents are primarily responsible for:

- welcoming all new parents
- assisting parents to get to know each other
- making a class contact list and distributing to all class families
- assisting teachers with parent involvement in class activities organising class social activities
- co-ordinating parent helpers for class events and fundraising
- meeting with the teacher regularly to discuss class needs.

The contribution of the Class Parent Representatives is highly valued by the school.



Annual Report

Our school provides a concise annual summary of its achievements and progress towards improving student learning, engagement and wellbeing, as well as information on students pathways and transitions on to further education.

Reports are placed online on the WLPS website and on the Schools Online website.

Parent- Teacher interviews

Parent- teacher interviews offer a formal opportunity to speak with your child's teacher about your child's progress.

If you have questions about your child's performance at school at any time, please speak to your child's teacher as soon as possible. You can contact the school or teacher for an appointment.

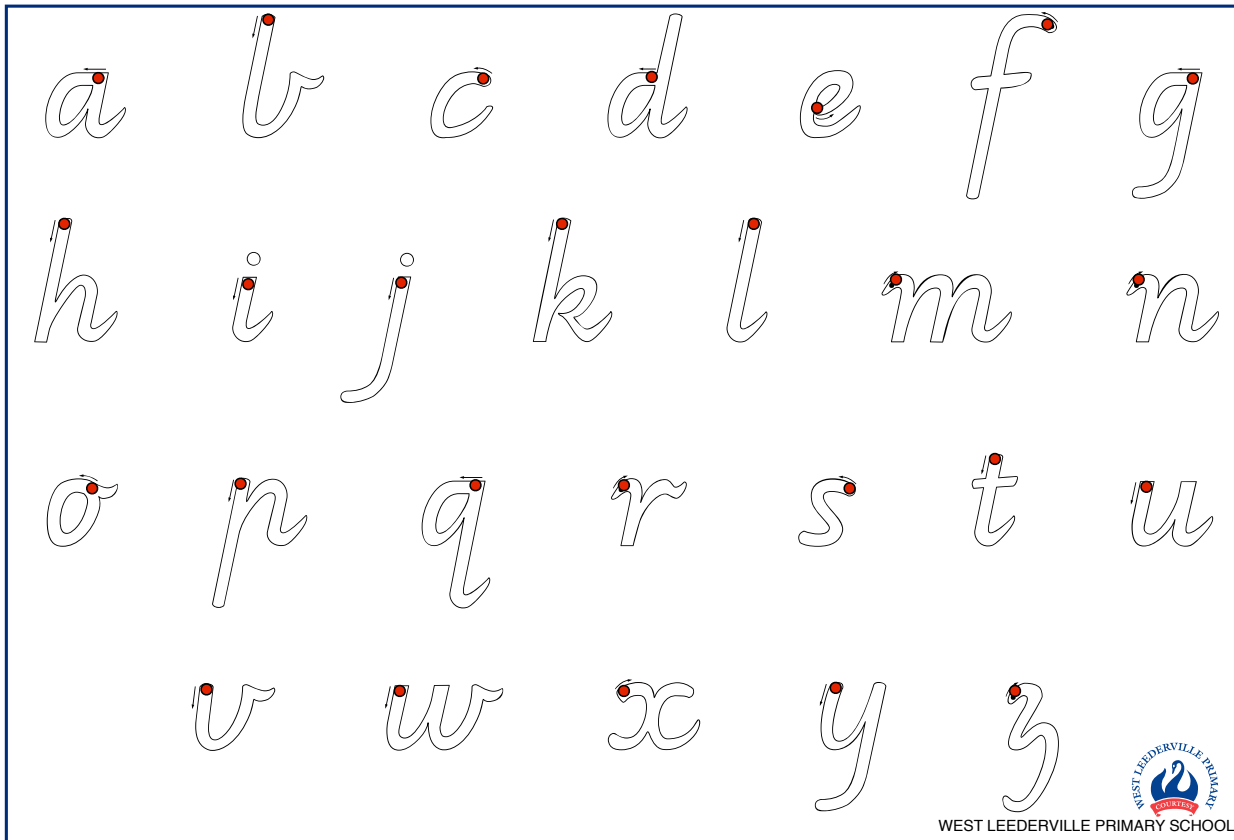
Parent concerns

If you have any concerns about your child's education, you should raise them in the first instance with your child's teacher. If you still feel you need further assistance, contact the school office and request an appointment to speak with a member of the school administration.



Handwriting style

Victorian Modern Cursive



Correct Pencil Grip



While technology has impacted on the different ways we communicate, the ability to handwrite legibly remains a vital skill in many aspects of everyday life. It is important to establish and reinforce a proper pencil grip as early as possible. The tripod grip is the preferred grip as it allows for proper control of the pencil. In the tripod grip the thumb, index finger and middle finger form a triangle to hold the pencil with the ring finger and the little finger supporting the middle finger. The pencil should be positioned between the three fingers so there is equal pressure. The index finger should rest on the top of the pencil. All fingers are slightly bent.

Public education
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READING: LEARNING AT HOME

READING WITH YOUR CHILD IS IMPORTANT!

Reading with your child every day encourages a love of books and reading. Encourage your child to look at books regularly, and get family and friends to read with your child as much as possible. Try reading with your child for the enjoyment of spending time together – it's a great way to end the day.

It's really important to give your child lots of praise as they learn to read.

Get in the mood for reading

Children who enjoy reading at home are more likely to succeed as they learn to read at school. Try setting up a special reading time and place where you and your child can relax and be comfortable.

There are lots of things to read including nursery rhymes, story books, non-fiction books, books on dinosaurs and pets, books you make together, funny stories and poems, joke books, websites and CD books, comic books, newspapers, catalogues and magazines, recipe books, street maps, and dictionaries.

Public education
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READING: LEARNING AT HOME

READING STAGES

Role-play readers

As your child grows and develops, they begin to take an interest in books and the words they see around them.

They may start to imitate you by holding books the right way up, turning the pages carefully and pretending to read by using the pictures and their memory to retell stories. They also learn the difference between the front and back of a book, understand that words and pictures are different, and that printed words contain messages.

You can support your child by:

- reading with them every day
- encouraging and praising any attempts at pretend reading
- showing them that pictures help tell the story
- reading their favourite stories again and again – familiarity builds confidence
- not criticising them when they make mistakes – learning to read takes time!

Reading Ideas

When reading with your child:

- have them look at the pictures and tell you what the story might be about
- every now and then stop and ask: *What do you think will happen next?* and *What makes you think that?* – accept their answers even if they aren't quite right

Turn off the television. It's easier for your child to concentrate when there are no distractions.

- answer your child's questions even if they interrupt the flow of the story
- make storytelling and reading fun by making sounds of different animals and changing your voice for different characters.

After you have finished reading with your child:

- talk about the story
- get them to retell the story to you
- talk about what happened and when and where it happened, for example: *Who was your favourite person in the story?*

Other reading ideas:

- **Talk about the pictures in the book and get your child to make up their own story.**
- **Visit your local library for storytelling sessions and to borrow audio books.**
- **Give your child books as presents.**
- **Encourage your child to listen for the sounds in words they recognise, for example sh.**
- **Get your child to look for letters they may know such as letters in their name.**



Department of
Education

**You'll find more
learning at home factsheets
at education.wa.edu.au.**

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learning at home factsheets
at education.wa.edu.au.**

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NUMBERS:
LEARNING AT HOME

NUMBER ACTIVITY IDEAS WHEN YOU ARE OUT AND ABOUT

In the car

There are many games you can play in the car with your child to keep them occupied:

- Count the number of cars with your child. Make the game a little more challenging by counting cars of each colour.
- Look out for and point out numbers when you are out and about, for example on signs, number plates and front doors.

In the neighbourhood

When walking around the neighbourhood with your child:

- count the number of houses in your street
- talk about shapes, for example: *The give way sign is a triangle*
- read and say the numbers on letterboxes.

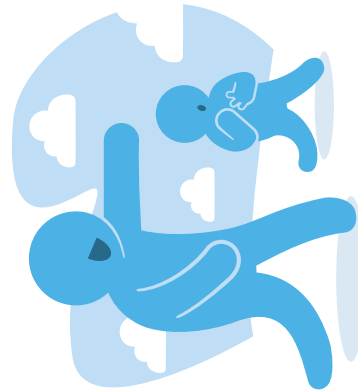
Shopping

Keep your child occupied when shopping by getting them to:

- count the number of items in the trolley, basket or bag
- point out and look for numbers in the shop, for example, on price tags and shopping aisles
- find and group the heavy and light items when unpacking the shopping.

Ask your child questions while you are doing everyday activities so they begin to think and talk about maths from an early age.

Ask questions such as: How many are there? Which way is it? Will it fit in there? Is there enough for all of us? and How big is it?

NUMBERS:
LEARNING AT HOME

NUMBER ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR HOME

Read together

Books are an easy and fun way to bring maths into your home. As you read, add to the fun by asking questions such as: *Who was the second person to arrive? How many people have brown hair? Who is the tallest person in the picture? and What page are we on?* Count the pages as you turn them.

Bath time is a great time for learning measurement through water play.

Food and cooking

Ask your child to help measure ingredients with spoons, scoops and cups. Get them to set the timer for the oven. Prepare meals together and ask questions like: *How many people are eating? How many plates and cups do we need? and Do we have enough forks for everyone?*

Talk about time

- Talk about the days of the week and activities that happen on certain days. For example: *On Sunday we go to visit Grandma and On Wednesday we do the shopping.*
- Talk about day, night, morning and afternoon activities, for example: *At night I go to bed and In the morning I have a shower.*
- Talk about the seasons and the months of the year, for example: *Your birthday is in May and We play football in winter.*

Show your child that the overall quantity of a group of objects does not change even if you rearrange them.

Put some objects in a line and ask, How many? Put the same objects in a group and ask, How many? The answer is the same.

Sport

Sport is a topic that includes maths and is easy to talk about. You can:

- point out the score on the scoreboard
- talk about placegetters in a race – first, second, third ...last.



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WRITING AND SPELLING: LEARNING AT HOME

WRITING AND SPELLING ARE IMPORTANT!

Speaking and listening are the foundations on which writing, spelling and reading are built. Your child develops these and other skills when they attend Kindergarten. As they build their speaking and listening confidence, they start to learn about writing.

What can I do?

- Read with your child regularly. Explore words and books together, and involve them when you are writing.
- As you read together, talk about the words you read. For example, rhyming words like: bat and cat, and talk about the sounds made at the beginning of words.
- Encourage your child to help you write notes, emails and shopping lists. Set out paper and pencils so they can try writing with you.
- Play word games together such as matching the name of an animal to the picture.
- Display letters and drawings your child has created. Write them notes such as: *I'm very proud of you!*

If your child speaks another language or dialect, they need time to hear the sounds of the English language. It may take up to two years or longer for them to hear and say all these sounds.



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WRITING AND SPELLING: LEARNING AT HOME

WRITING AND SPELLING IDEAS

Listen

Encourage your child to listen and to talk. A child who is a good speller is often a good talker.

Read together

Read alphabet books, story books and birthday cards with your child. Read and sing nursery rhymes together again and again. Point to words that easily match the pictures such as cat and hat. Help them recognise rhyming words by getting them to listen to you say them.

Write together

Write words together. Help your child trace over letters with their fingers while you say each letter out loud.

Spelling matters

Label your child's things together, for example help them write their name in their books and on toys. This shows that spelling has meaning.

Mirror image

Have your child look in a mirror so they can see how their mouth moves. This can often help if they get certain sounds mixed up such as *f* and *th*.

Rhyming games

Play word games with nonsense words such as *puppy schnuppy*. Play rhyming games where you say the words out loud.

Turn off the television. It's easier for your child to concentrate when there are no distractions.

- Help your child recognise their name. Start by asking them to listen to the first sound in their name.
- Talk about the first letter of their name. Encourage them to look for that letter in other places. Help them write the letters in their name.
- When you make dinner ask questions such as: *Can you find something in the kitchen that starts with the same sound as your name?*
- Spend time together looking for letters and words your child knows. You can do this at home, in the car, at the shops and at the playground.
- Keep the learning fun!

A child with disability usually benefits from and enjoys the close interaction and stimulation provided when they are read their favourite stories or are sung a nursery rhyme. If your child has a disability, their school supports them as they participate in activities at a level suitable to their ability. Talk with your child's teacher about appropriate tools, equipment and ideas to support you and your child.

**You'll find more
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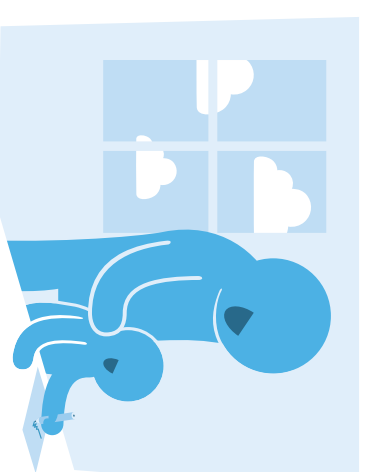
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Being able to write and spell are processes that take time. Children learn in different ways and at different rates. Be patient and always praise their efforts – it's a big step to get little fingers to control a pencil or crayon.



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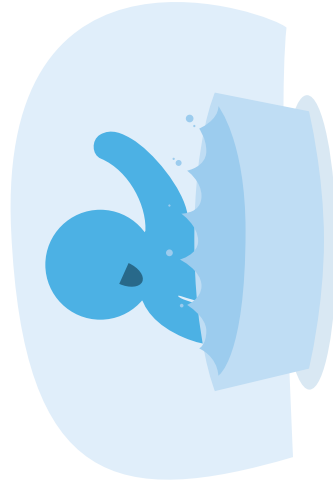
SCIENCE OUTDOORS

Beach play

- Get your child to use their senses when you are at the beach. Ask them to smell the ocean air, look at the waves, feel the sand beneath their feet and taste the sea water.
- Get your child to stand on the wave line and let the waves lap against their feet. Ask them to describe what it feels like.
- Dig a hole near the wave line and see how long it takes to fill with water. Get your child to stand in the hole and describe to you what is happening.
- Gather driftwood, seaweed and shells and make designs and patterns in the sand. Ask your child to describe the texture of these objects, for example *rough, smooth, cold, slimy* and *sharp*. Ask your child to make up a story about where these objects come from.

Rain play

- Listen to the rain fall on different surfaces and ask your child to explain the different sounds.
- Stand with your child in the rain. Let the rain fall on your faces. Stick your tongues out and catch the rain. Ask questions such as: *What does the rain feel like?* and *What does it taste like?*
- Look at the rain clouds and ask your child to describe them.
- Watch the rain splash in puddles. Get your child to make ripples with their fingers. See if they can see their reflection. Jump in the puddles!



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SCIENCE AT HOME

Pretend to be a scientist

It is easy to be a scientist – your child needs three simple things:

1. A curious mind: Encourage your child to question everything around them – this makes them wonderful junior scientists!
2. A magnifying glass: Let your child discover the world in much greater detail.
3. A treasure bag: Get your child to collect things they find interesting, for example shells, small stones, leaves and feathers. Allow space at home for them to display their treasures or keep them in special bags and boxes.



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Bath play

- Test different objects in the bath to see if they float or sink. Make predictions before testing them. Ask your child questions such as: *Why do some things float and others sink?* and *How can you make a floating object sink or a sinking object float?*
- Ask your child to think about where the water comes from and where it goes when the bath is emptied.

- Use old containers to squirt air and water. Squeeze an empty container onto your child's hands and ask them what they feel. Fill the container with water and ask your child to squirt the water out. Try doing this under water. Experiment by making patterns on the wall.

Night time

- Explore night time with a torch. Make shadows on the wall. Create a story with shadow puppets.
- Observe the night sky. Go for a walk in the garden without a torch and ask your child questions such as: *What can you see? What can you hear?* and *What might make those noises?*



Read Aloud 15 MINUTES

Every child. Every parent. Every day.



More than one in three children arrive at kindergarten without the skills necessary for lifetime learning.

Research shows that reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do to help a child prepare for reading and learning.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The number of words that a child knows on entering kindergarten is a key predictor of his or her future success.

LITERACY SKILL BUILDING

Vocabulary. Phonics. Familiarity with the printed word. Storytelling. Comprehension. Reading aloud builds literacy skills.

INSTILL A LOVE OF READING

Your example demonstrates that reading is important, pleasurable and valued.

WHY READ ALOUD?

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

From birth to age 3 are critical years in the development of language skills.

KNOWLEDGE GAINED & SHARED

Books are a pleasure, yes, and they are also informative. You and your child can learn something new as you read aloud.

BONDING

Is anything better than sharing a good book?

More than 15% of young children, 3.1 million, are read to by family members fewer than three times a week.

DON'T GOOD PARENTS ALREADY READ ALOUD DAILY? **NO**

Only 48% of young children in this country are read to each day.

Reading 15 minutes every day for 5 years:
27,375 MINUTES

456.25 HOURS

IS 15 MINUTES ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? **YES!**

Tell a friend at www.ReadAloud.org

Useful websites

West Leederville Primary School

Phone: (08) 9381 1655

www.wlps.edu.au

www.facebook.com/WestLeedervillePS

Skoolbag App

www.skoolbag.com.au/

WA Department of Education and Training

Phone: (08) 9264 4111

www.education.wa.edu.au/

Schools Online

www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/

Australian Curriculum

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

Starting Kindergarten & Pre-Primary

<http://det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou>

Healthy body, healthy mind

<http://nutritionaustralia.org/>

<http://det.wa.edu.au/healthyfoodanddrink>

www.waschoolcanteens.org.au/

<http://heartfoundation.com.au/>

<http://beactive.wa.gov.au/>

<http://dsr.wa.gov.au/>

<http://www.natureplaywa.org.au/>

Communicable Diseases

http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/281/2/notification_of_communicable_diseases.pm

Anti-bullying and safety online

www.bullyingnoway.com.au

www.cybersmart.gov.au

Gifted and talented education

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/giftedandtalented/detcms/portal/>

Allergies

www.allergyfacts.org.au

Lifesaving WA

<http://lifesavingwa.com.au/>

Camp Australia West Leederville OSHC

info@campaustralia.com.au or 1300 105 343.

Mulberry Tree OSHC

Wembley.kidsclub@mulberrytree.com.au or 0429513537

Child Care Benefit

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

Parenting WA

<http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

Best Beginnings

<http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/SupportingIndividualsAndFamilies/Pages/BestBeginnings.aspx>

Child and Adolescent Health Services

<http://www.pmh.health.wa.gov.au/>

Raising Children Network

<http://raisingchildren.net.au/>

State Library of Western Australia

<http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/>

Playgroup WA

<http://playgroupwa.com.au/>

Storyline Online

<http://www.storylineonline.net/>





www.wlps.wa.edu.au

