



# Early Childhood



## Playgroup – “Ashmore’s Shooting Stars”

Our weekly playgroup for children 0 to 5 years (under school age). Playgroup promotes fun & learning while interacting with other children & adults. Parents and carers build community connections in an early childhood setting. Enhance your child's confidence & self-esteem through shared play. Develop their oral language & listening skills in an interactive & supportive environment.

## Pre-Prep

The six-month Pre-Prep Program, for children aged four to five years of age, is a one-day a week program commencing in July of each year. Children who are enrolled for Prep in the following year are able to enrol in Pre-Prep. Children receive a Pre-Prep polo shirt and their school hat.

The Pre-Prep Program is designed to support children in readiness for full-time schooling. Children undertake activities including oral language, big book reading, literacy discussion and related activities, gross and fine motor skill development, and numeracy knowledge and skills.

The program provides the opportunity for children to form friendships with fellow students and familiarise themselves with the school, enhancing the transition to school. Parents and carers also become more familiar with and informed about Ashmore State School.

## Prep

Prep is a full-time program that children attend from Monday to Friday during normal school hours, from 8.50am to 3pm. To be eligible for Prep, children must be aged 5 years by 30 June in the year they start Prep. Prep is the start of the early stage of learning which continues until Year 2. 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 History (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 students are taught the Foundation Year of the Australian Curriculum.

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
- History, 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.

