

WATSON ROAD STATE SCHOOL

PREP INFORMATION BOOK

2022



 **Welcome** 
 **To Our School**

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Welcome to Watson Road State School

We look forward to working with you to support your child's successful transition into their first year of school.

Principal: Murray Branch
Deputy Principal: Lisa McLeod
Prep Teacher: Katie Knight
Prep Teacher Aides: Barbara-Jane Brimblecombe (**Monday-Wednesday**)
Rowena Anderson (**Tuesday-Friday**)

Administration office: Phone: (07) 3715 2333

Email: admin@watsonroadss.eq.edu.au

Web page: <https://watsonroadss.eq.edu.au>

Prep Hours: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm



Queensland Term dates 2022

Term	Dates	Length
Term 1	Monday 24 th January – Friday 1 st April	10 weeks
Term 2	Tuesday 19 th April – Friday 24 th June	10 weeks
Term 3	Monday 11 th July – Friday 16 th September	10 weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 4 th October – Friday 9 th December	10 weeks

Introduction and Welcome

From the Principal

Dear Families

Welcome to Prep at Watson Road State School. Prep is an exciting time for you and your child. It is a full-time compulsory program, Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Prep is the first year of schooling and provides the foundation for your child's education.

The early years of learning are among the most significant periods of growth for children. Experiences during this time not only affect cognitive, social and physical development, but also deeply influence dispositions to learning and children's views of themselves as learners.

At Watson Road State School the Prep program is designed to cater for each child's interests and needs and to foster a love of learning.

Children are eligible to attend Prep when they have turned 4 years of age on or before June 30 in the year prior to commencing Prep.

It should be emphasised that:

- The standard Prep entry cut-off date is 30 June in the year a child enters Prep.
- A quality kindergarten program in the year before Prep is the best education option for all children.

Murray Branch
Principal



From the Prep Team

Dear Families,

WELCOME!

The time has arrived for your child to attend Prep 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 staff.

A sincere welcome is extended to you and we trust that your child's learning experience in our Prep classroom 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.

Yours Sincerely
The Watson Road State School Prep Team

To New Parents

Children are unique, curious and capable learners.

At Watson Road State School:

- We endeavour to create an inclusive learning environment for all students.
- We encourage high attendance to support learning and development of each child.
- We value safety and security for all.
- We believe self-concept improves with success.
- We believe behaviour management should be a learning experience.
- We promote a high standard of responsible behaviour through our four school expectations:
 - Safe
 - Kind
 - Respectful
 - Learners
- We believe students can be taught to make good choices and accept responsibility for their behaviour.



Age Appropriate for Prep

Prep is the first year of school and provides the foundation for your child's education. From 2017, it has been compulsory for Queensland children to undertake Prep prior to Year 1. Prep is a full-time program in primary schools. Children attend Monday – Friday from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Children **must be 5 by 30 June** in the year they enrol.

Birth Date	Eligible for Prep Year in
Child born 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017	2022
Child born 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018	2023
Child born 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019	2024

Enrolment Meeting

Members of the Admin team will meet with parents shortly before the close of the previous school year. Parents will complete an information sheet which supplements the enrolment form to ensure the best transition possible. At the meeting you are able to talk about your child's particular interests, needs etc. Once you have submitted the enrolment forms, you will be contacted by the Administration Officer to arrange a meeting time.

Prep Uniform

At Watson Road State School, Prep students are expected to wear the school uniform available from the Office. We are a SunSmart School, and as such we enforce the wearing of a broad brimmed hat, bucket hat or legionnaires hat.

“No hat – no outside play”

Illness

In the case of accident or sudden severe illness, every effort is made to contact parents. The school reserves the right to seek immediate medical aid for a child if this is considered necessary. Additional emergency contacts can also be helpful in this situation.

Please advise us if you change residence or telephone number. It is essential for your child's health and safety that we are able to contact you quickly if the need arises.

Medication

Should it be necessary for medication to be administered to your child, it is required by the Department of Education that a **Consent to Administer Medication** form be filled out and the medication to be left at the Office. Your child will be required to report to the Office to receive the medication. **ALL medication must be labelled.**

Toilet Access

All children should be able to use toilets independently. All children will be encouraged to utilise the toilet facilities before the commencement of each session and as the need arises throughout the day. **Please pack a spare set of clothes/underwear in your child's school bag in case of an accident.**

Birthdays

We celebrate each child's birthday at Prep. Please feel free to send along **NUT FREE** sliced 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 to ensure we have enough for everyone to celebrate.



Prep Routines

Operating Times

9.00am - 3.00pm

Transitions

On arrival

- We ask that students arrive at school by 8.40am and wait at the undercover eating area, with the supervising Teachers.
- Arriving at 8.40am will ensure students are ready to start their learning day.
- First bell is at 8.55am (warning bell, time to line up/get ready).
- Second bell is at 9.00am (the Teacher collects students from the line up area/start of learning time).
- Students enter the classroom, put their lunch box and drink bottle away.
- Students participate in an array of educational activities and await roll marking.
- **If your child arrives after the second bell at 9.00am, you must collect a late slip from the office.**

On departure

- It is recommended that children be accompanied to and from the classroom by a responsible adult. If you arrange for someone else to collect your child, please inform the Office before 3.00pm.
- Students are to be collected from the Prep classroom at 3.00pm. Please be prompt when collecting your child from the classroom.
- **Students who are still present after 3.00pm will be escorted to the Office for collection.**



Munch and Crunch

- Munch and Crunch occurs at 10.00am every day of the school week.
- It is encouraged that students bring a piece of fruit for munch and crunch in their lunch box. A piece of fruit mid-morning will activate each student's brain, fostering each child's learning and development.

Break Times

- Munch and Crunch (fruit break) 10.00am
- First break 11.00am – 11.45am
 - Play 11.00am - 11.30am
 - Eating 11.30am - 11.45am
- Second break 1.20pm - 1.50pm
 - Play 1.20pm - 1.50pm
 - Eating 1.50pm - 2.00pm



Suitable Healthy Food for Lunch

We encourage children to eat healthy choices first and leave 'treats' for later. Containers need to be easy to open. Food should not need reheating or cutting up. Spoons or forks (preferably plastic) need to be included, if needed, so that your child can independently manage their food.

Some examples of **great lunch ideas** are below:

- sandwiches, rolls, pita bread etc
- crackers, savoury biscuits, cheese, salami / meat
- boiled eggs, yoghurt
- fruit – fresh or dried
- salad / vegetables – carrot sticks, beans, capsicum
- natural popcorn / cereal
- tuna / salmon (in a container they can open)

Unsuitable food for lunches:

- chips or lollies
- cakes with lots of icing or cream
- chocolate or chocolate-flavoured or chocolate-coated foods
- sugary snacks
- soft drinks

Due to the occurrence of students with allergies, especially to nuts, parents are asked to avoid sending any nuts or nut-related foods to school.



Treasured Possessions from Home

Toys and treasures can be lost or broken so we ask you to ensure that your child does **not bring** any of these to school.

Our Prep Program

Prep helps with building strong foundations within your child's learning and development as young capable learners.

In Prep your child will grow and develop:

- a positive approach to learning
- independence and confidence
- thinking and problem-solving skills
- language skills
- early Literacy and Numeracy skills and understandings
- physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills.



Our Prep curriculum is delivered with the implementation of the Australian Curriculum for all subject areas; and in conjunction with the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines for **social and personal learning, health and physical learning, and active learning processes.**

Your child will be immersed within a rich learning environment that enables them to explore the curriculum through a range of shared, independent and age appropriate learning experiences. Students are exposed to a range of different learning experiences through real-life situations, explicit learning situations and teaching, investigations and inquiry and discovery based learning, routines and transitions, and play.

At Watson Road State School we will endeavour to promote the appropriate use of technologies and support each child's acquisition of knowledge, values, skills, attitudes and capabilities required for learners in the 21st century. ICTs are integrated within the Prep classroom to provide many opportunities for students to engage in purposeful learning. The Prep learning environment is equipped with interactive projectors, classroom computers, and access to a set of iPads.

Prep Assessment and Reporting

Parents and families will receive a report card at the end of each semester outlining your child's achievements.

Their achievements are assessed against the Prep Achievement Standards:

- Becoming Aware
- Exploring
- Working With
- Making Connections
- Applying



An assessment portfolio which includes both summative and diagnostic assessment, is completed for each child during the year and information is provided to the Year One teacher. This information assists in the transition from Prep to Year One.

Specialist Lessons

Specialist teachers teach some learning areas within our curriculum. Prep students will have a specialist teacher for The Arts and Physical Education. They will also visit the library each week for borrowing.

Prep Stationary and Equipment Requirements

You have received a Prep booklist from Bedrock Books. Parents need to supply the listed items for their child. Some additional stationary and equipment will be available in the classroom for students to use for specific activities.

Learning Support

Any concerns regarding your child's progress at school should be directed in the first instance to your class teacher. The teacher will arrange for referrals, if required, to support your child and will discuss this process with you.

Support Services available at Watson Road State School are:

- Learning Support Teacher
- EAL/D Teacher (English as Second Language)
- Teacher Aides
- Advisory Visiting Teachers
- Speech Language Pathologist Services
- Guidance Officer
- Chaplaincy

Communication

At Watson Road State School we aim to create an inclusive environment that supports and maintains supportive and reciprocal relationships with families. We encourage open communication between families and staff.

Classroom communication is usually by the way of:

1. Regular class news updates.
2. Fortnightly school newsletters.
3. Informal conversations/Appointments **(before and after school hours)**.
4. Parent/Teacher Interviews in Terms 1 and 3 and Report Cards in Terms 2 and 4.
5. Families are welcome to attend the whole school assembly, held on Monday mornings.

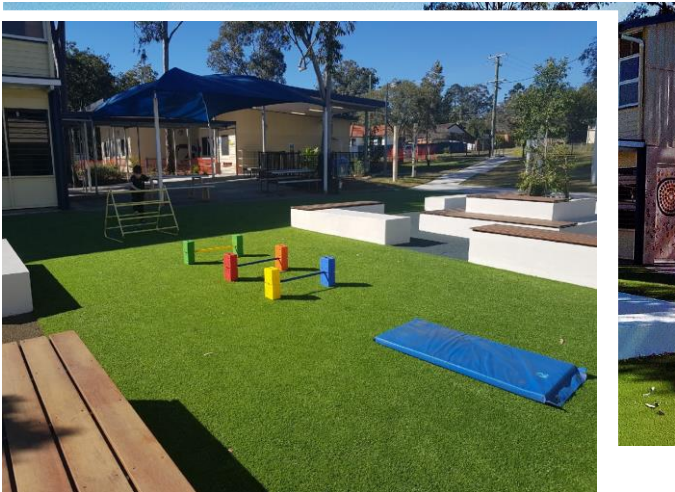


How do I prepare my child for Prep?

One of the major goals for the year is to develop independence including responsibility for one's own belongings. Please encourage your child to put their own school bag and lunch away. Rehearse this at home with your child.

Other things you can do to help prepare your child:

- ☀ To put on and fasten their own shoes.
- ☀ Practise eating and drinking without help (opening lunch boxes, wrapping and unwrapping food, taking lids off drink bottles, removing straws from poppers, opening tins, using spoons etc.).
- ☀ Using a handkerchief or tissue.
- ☀ Toileting independently.
- ☀ Using playground equipment safely.
- ☀ Carrying own bag.
- ☀ Identifying belongings.
- ☀ Familiarising the child with the school environment i.e. drive past and talk about the start of the Prep year and how excited you are for your child. Tell your child how they will get to school and how they will get home, talk positively about Prep and the Teacher.
- ☀ Emphasising how to play safely and make safe choices, including solving problems by using words.

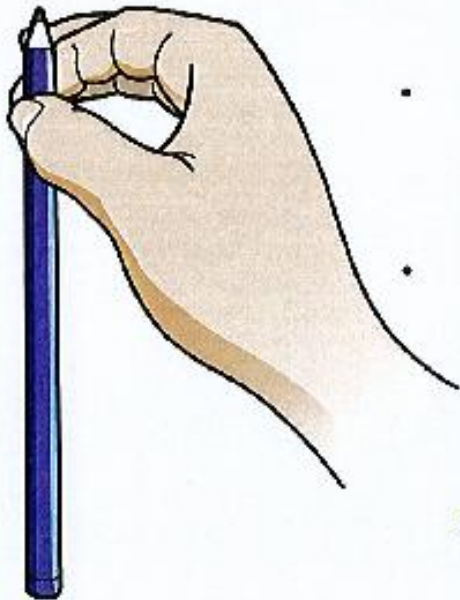


Is your child ready for School?

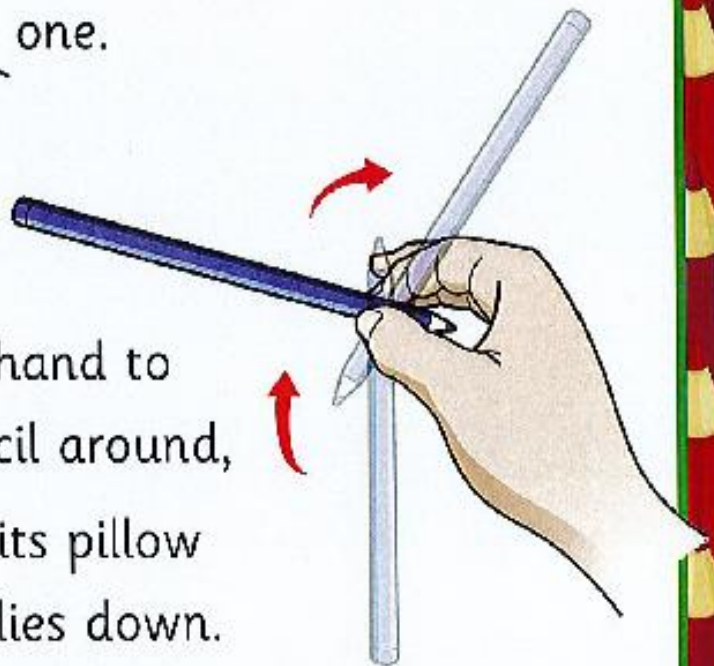
READINESS QUESTIONS	YES	NO	UNSURE
<i>Is your child usually happy?</i>			
<i>Can your child accept correction and suggestion without becoming upset?</i>			
<i>Does your child socialise well with other children?</i>			
<i>Does your child respond positively to adults other than family members?</i>			
<i>Can your child contribute to conversation appropriately?</i>			
<i>Is your child confident when speaking in front of people?</i>			
<i>Is your child's speech clear?</i>			
<i>Does your child have a fairly wide vocabulary?</i>			
<i>Can your child perform daily routine tasks alone?</i>			
<i>Can your child take care of personal belongings?</i>			
<i>Can your child dress independently – eg doing up buttons, shoelaces, etc.?</i>			
<i>Does your child go to the toilet and wash their hands independently?</i>			
<i>Does your child share and take turns?</i>			
<i>Does your child generally finish tasks?</i>			
<i>Can your child work alone without being distracted?</i>			
<i>Can your child work well in a group?</i>			
<i>Can your child use scissors correctly?</i>			
<i>Can your child hold a thick pencil or crayon correctly and draw in bold lines?</i>			
<i>Can your child copy a circle, square, cross, rectangle and triangle?</i>			
<i>Can your child recognise colours and shapes, and correctly name these?</i>			
<i>Can your child remember and follow instructions?</i>			
<i>Can your child express their ideas fluently?</i>			
<i>Can your child retell a simple story in correct sequence?</i>			
<i>Can your child discriminate visually between similar things?</i>			
<i>Can your child discriminate between similar sounding words?</i>			
<i>Can your child rhyme simple words?</i>			
<i>Can your child tell a story based on a picture or sequence of pictures?</i>			
<i>Does your child enjoy books, stories and rhymes?</i>			
<i>Does your child show an interest in the printed word and hold a book in the correct position for reading?</i>			
<i>Does your child have the correct pencil grip? (Refer the following pages.)</i>			
<i>Can your child tell the difference between letters and words?</i>			
<i>Does your child know his/her first and last name?</i>			
<i>Can your child recognise his/her name?</i>			
<i>Does your child know some of the letters in his/her name?</i>			
<i>Does your child attempt to count?</i>			
<i>Does your child recognise his/her own school bag, hat, lunchbox, jumpers etc?</i>			
<i>Can your child unwrap and undo items that you will be providing in their lunch?</i>			
<i>Does your child talk about starting Prep and seem excited to begin school?</i>			
<i>Has your child seen and walked through the school grounds?</i>			

- If you answer "YES" to most of the questions, your child should settle in to the Prep day and various routines readily and happily.
- If you didn't answer "YES" to most of the questions, don't panic...there is still time for child to become more prepared and ready for school. Remember also that the teachers and other school staff will be able to assist your child in settling in to school routine.

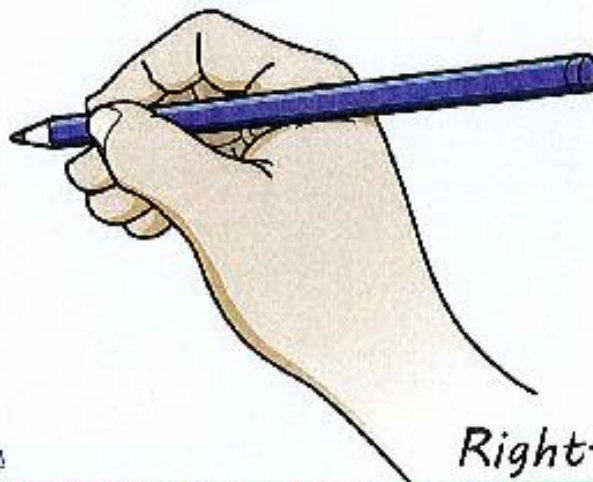
The Pencil Hold Rap



- Pick up your pencil - use your pointer and thumb,
- Let it dangle - this is step one.

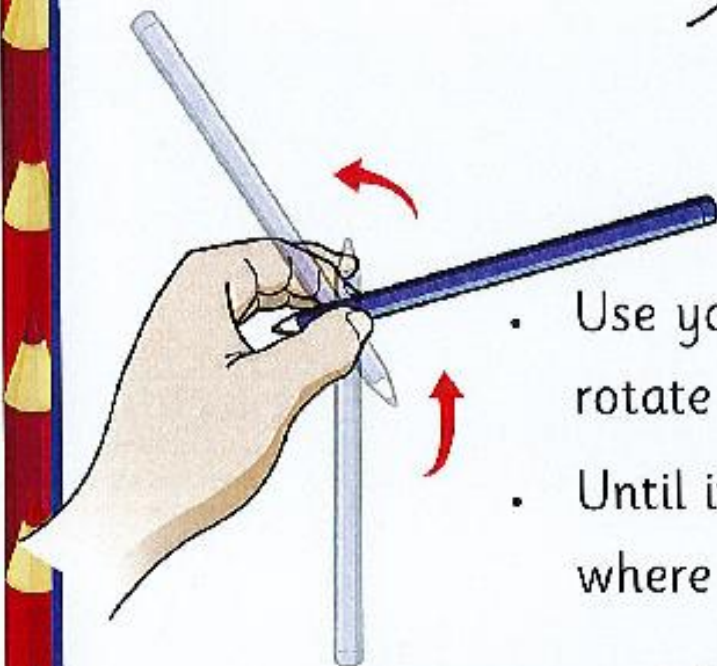


- Use your other hand to rotate your pencil around,
- Until it reaches its pillow where it gently lies down.

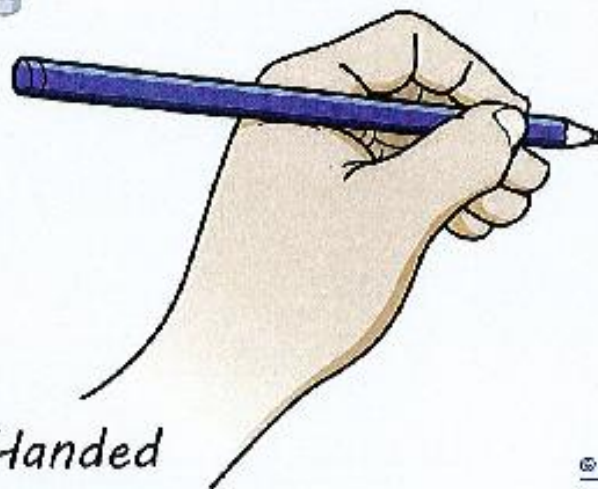


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Left-Handed

Practise the Alphabet

Aa

Bb

Cc

Dd

Ee

Ff

Gg

Hh

Ii

Jj

Kk

Ll

Mm Nn Oo

Pp Qq Rr

Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx

Yy Zz

ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

- **Encourage your child to play with playdough.** Show your child how to knead the playdough to soften it. Mould the dough into figures of people or animals. Use rollers and biscuit cutters to roll out and cut the dough into different shapes. Playdough is a fun way to strengthen the muscles of the hand that will be used for writing.
- **Give your child items to thread.**
- **Give your child old magazines or newspapers to cut up,** or allow him/her to **make a collage** of the things he/she likes by cutting them from magazines and gluing them to a piece of paper.
- **Give your child several different writing options** (coloured pencils, crayons or markers) to help keep him/her interested in writing and drawing. Include tracing activities such as tracing around hands and objects, and dot to dot.
- **Purchase a good pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice.** (If your child is left-handed, be sure to get left-handed scissors). Cutting with scissors takes a great deal of finger dexterity and so can be frustrating for young children.
 - Show your child how to hold scissors, how to open and close them, and how to hold and turn the paper while cutting.
 - Draw short horizontal lines on the edge of a piece of paper with a texta.
 - Have your child cut along the lines to make a fringe.
 - Give your child simple shapes to cut out.



GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

- **Practise walking and hopping skills on a line of masking tape.** Use masking tape on the floor to make a straight line. Say, "Walk on tiptoe on the line." Demonstrate. Or ask your child to hop along the line on one foot.
- **Play catch with your child and make it fun.** Start with soft rubber balls, wool, beanbags or foam balls and move up to larger, firmer balls. Start slowly, tossing the ball gently into the child's midsection to make it easy to catch. Encourage him/her to toss it back. Keep it short (10 to 15 minutes is usually the maximum time younger children want to play catch).
- **Play a game of kickball.** Like catching, start in a small area, quite close together. Your child might begin simply rolling the ball with the tip of his/her foot. You can kick the ball back to your child and enjoy a game of "kick the ball".
- **Set up a bowling game with your child.** You can use milk cartons, shoeboxes, blocks or yoghurt containers. Set up a few "pins" and have your child knock them down by tossing or rolling a ball from a reasonable distance.
- **Create an obstacle course.** You can create an obstacle course with your child using everyday items around your home. Use items such as chairs, tables, tyres, ropes, logs, rocks and boxes to set up obstacles for your child to explore moving around, over and through. Encourage your child to decide on the path to take around the obstacle course and actions that may be needed to pass certain areas.

