Preparing little lives for ‘Big School’

At Cedars we understand that the transition from home to a child’s first day of school often isn’t easy – not just for children, but for you as a parent too. It’s reassuring to know that Cedars’ Prep has prepared for just that, having received “exceeding national standard” ratings by the government’s National Quality Standard assessment for leadership and for the health and safety of our children.

Centering them in a Christ-focused learning environment that’s secure and nurturing, we know that the first five years of a child’s life are the most significant. And for that reason, every program is specifically designed for the intellectual, physical and spiritual development of your child.

Prep Program

In Prep we recognise the importance of early childhood as a unique stage of life. Our aim is to inspire and extend your child in the early years as part of their lifetime learning journey. Engaging their curiosity as they explore and interact with the world around them is vital, as children learn from everything they do. At Cedars we use the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) as the foundation for learning and readiness for ‘BIG’ school.

Family and community connections are an important part of life at Cedars. We encourage parents to be part of our community by being involved in events and celebrations. Communication and connection with other Prep families as well as easy access to information about your child’s learning and the Prep program are given through C-Hub. C-Hub is our parent portal where families can see videos of their child’s learning journey, read their portfolios, view daily photos and reflections and join in excursions and social events.

Physical

Physical health through body awareness, sensory perception, and fine and gross motor skill development are part of our day-to-day program. Our outside activities to develop gross motor skills include balancing, climbing, jumping, throwing balls as well as the development of fine motor skills through cutting and writing. Healthy eating is encouraged through ‘crunch and sip’ each day – a time when children refuel by eating either fruit or vegetables and drinking water. Dance and gymnastics classes held on Fridays in our ‘Prep Plus’ also support the development of body awareness and co-ordination. To ensure the College provides consistently high-quality health care, students have access to a school nurse on site. Our dedicated nurse manages our sick bay, develops individual health care plans and assists in the training and development of staff in the area of student health.

Social

Connecting with your child and helping them feel welcomed and secure in the Prep environment is our primary aim, especially during their first Term. The development of social awareness and friendship skills that instil trust, the ability to share, to cooperate and to develop positive and caring relationships are important life skills. Our school Psychologist visits Prep regularly to interact and support these positive interactions.
Emotional

As part of a maturing identity your child is encouraged to connect with the world around them. Expressing empathy for others and respecting differences are part of this process. Activities showcasing different cultures are a feature of our Prep program. The development of a positive self-concept and an increasing knowledge and understanding of their feelings also strengthens emotional capabilities. Assisting children to identify and manage their feelings helps to validate their emotions and give them confidence.

Cognitive

Our Prep staff create focus areas for children to experience where they become engaged and their imagination is stimulated. Their learning is extended through teaching Literacy and Numeracy skills that prepare them for ‘BIG’ school. Your child’s Prep year lays the foundation for the Primary years of education and our commitment to this belief is seen as we engage the expert input of our Speech Pathologist, in developing language and communication skills. Being part of a larger school environment also provides for input from specialty teachers in Dance, Music and Visual Arts.

Language

Language is the basis for each child’s future interaction with their world. It also plays a pivotal role in their future academic success. In Prep their language development is enriched through guided and free inquiry, developing intellectual skills, reasoning and problem-solving. The use of the Jolly Phonics program introduces the foundational skills for reading and writing. Staff work to deepen and broaden the language foundation of the children through their daily interactions.

Prep is an exciting time at Cedars where we have the special privilege of helping to ‘Lead little lives forward’ as we help prepare them for ‘BIG school’ ahead.

Come and join us.