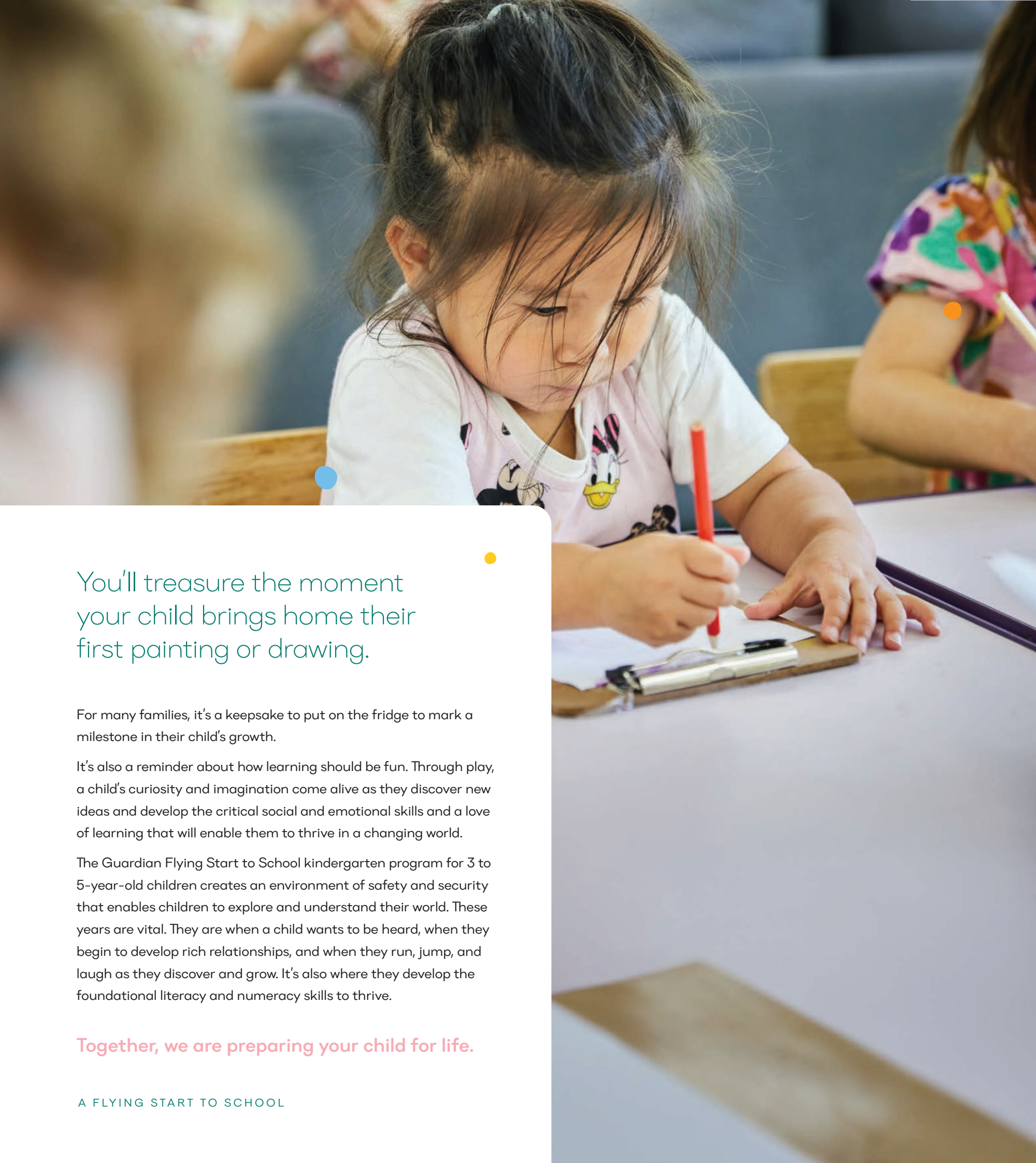




A Flying Start To School

2 year Kindergarten Program





You'll treasure the moment your child brings home their first painting or drawing.

For many families, it's a keepsake to put on the fridge to mark a milestone in their child's growth.

It's also a reminder about how learning should be fun. Through play, a child's curiosity and imagination come alive as they discover new ideas and develop the critical social and emotional skills and a love of learning that will enable them to thrive in a changing world.

The Guardian Flying Start to School kindergarten program for 3 to 5-year-old children creates an environment of safety and security that enables children to explore and understand their world. These years are vital. They are when a child wants to be heard, when they begin to develop rich relationships, and when they run, jump, and laugh as they discover and grow. It's also where they develop the foundational literacy and numeracy skills to thrive.

Together, we are preparing your child for life.

A FLYING START TO SCHOOL

Guardian Kindergarten

Supporting children to be *bold, curious, creative*

Our Flying Start to School kindergarten program provides an environment of safety and security that enables children to explore and understand their world.

We take pride in providing the highest-quality care and education:

- Degree-qualified Early Childhood Teachers and specialist Educational Leaders who guide the program at each centre.
- The best play and learning resources ensure children are excited about what each day holds.
- Long day care hours and continuity of care during school holiday periods to benefit families.
- A centre-community where families are invited to be valued partners in the care and education of their children.
- Five meals a day prepared in-house by professional Chefs and Cooks using fresh ingredients.

Fee Help for Kindergarten

Most of the Australian state governments offer funding to subsidise the cost of kindergarten in long day care for three and four-year-old children.

Scan the QR code for your state for more information on fee help you may be eligible for.



QLD



VIC





A two year program: *lifelong success*

Focussing on the learning and development of children aged 3-4 and 4-5 years.

We are guided by the government's framework for early childhood education (The National Quality Framework, including the Early Years Learning Framework) and support children to progress towards the following 5 learning outcomes of the framework:

- 1 Children have a strong sense of identity.
- 2 Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
- 3 Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.
- 4 Children are confident and involved learners.
- 5 Children are effective communicators.

Our kindergarten program provides children with a solid foundation to prepare them as they progress to the Australian School Curriculum. They are guided, led and supported by degree-qualified Early Childhood Teachers and specialist Educational Leaders.



3-4 Years **Becoming Me** Learning new things

Our curriculum for 3-4 year olds is based on **discovery, independence and communication**

Our 3-4 year olds have thoughts, theories and opinions about the world which they want to share with others. They are curious and brave and want to try things for themselves, work out solutions and be listened to by those around them.

We want each child to develop their confidence and independence in a safe, supportive environment where it is okay to make mistakes and try again, and where you are part of a group who celebrates your achievements and strengths too! Learning new things means children are resilient and persistent and feel great about themselves as a learner.



4-5 Years **Being Me** Ready for the next stage of life

Our curriculum for 4-5 year olds is based on a **strong sense of identity, being brave and a valued citizen of our community**

Our 4-5 year olds think deeply about more complicated ideas and care about their community, about fairness and justice in the world. They are responsible and kind, with a perspective on the things that matter to them.

We want each child to feel acknowledged and develop their ability to interpret the world and communicate their ideas in a range of ways. We provide safe spaces that challenge children to think, to solve problems and to be brave in taking risks. We provide experiences to develop complexity of their thinking and the ability to communicate, make decisions and discuss ideas within the group.

Every day, I am **Becoming** and **Being**

You'll forever remember your child's first day at school. And you want your child to be ready for the move from preschool to school and beyond. Our kindergarten program is based on the principles of becoming a capable, independent learner and being confident in who you are. These are the social and emotional foundations that prepare a child for a successful transition to school.

We have created an easy-to-understand framework for our 2 year kindergarten program that supports the holistic development of your child to ensure they have A Flying Start to School!

Becoming and Being Me!

I am 3!

I am 4!

Becoming
and Being
a Great
Thinker

Becoming
and Being
a Good
Friend

Becoming
and Being
a Mover

Becoming
and Being
a Writer

Becoming
and Being
a Counter

Becoming
and Being
a Reader

*A Flying Start
To School*

A Kindergarten Curriculum



The Structure of *A Flying Start to School*

Through our structured program we want to shine a light on specific areas of your child's development. We focus on supporting your child's social and emotional capability and wellbeing because a confident, happy child is much better able to learn! As we focus on each area, this means we can easily show you the progress your child has made throughout each year.

Becoming/Being Me

Becoming/Being A Good Friend

Becoming/Being A Reader

Becoming/Being A Writer

Becoming/Being A Counter

Becoming/Being A Mover

Becoming/Being A Great Thinker

Social emotional competencies that research has found are the most important for school 'readiness' and academic success

Literacy and numeracy focus

Great health, safety and wellbeing means I can move on to higher order thinking

3 Year Olds: **Becoming** 4 Year Olds: **Being**



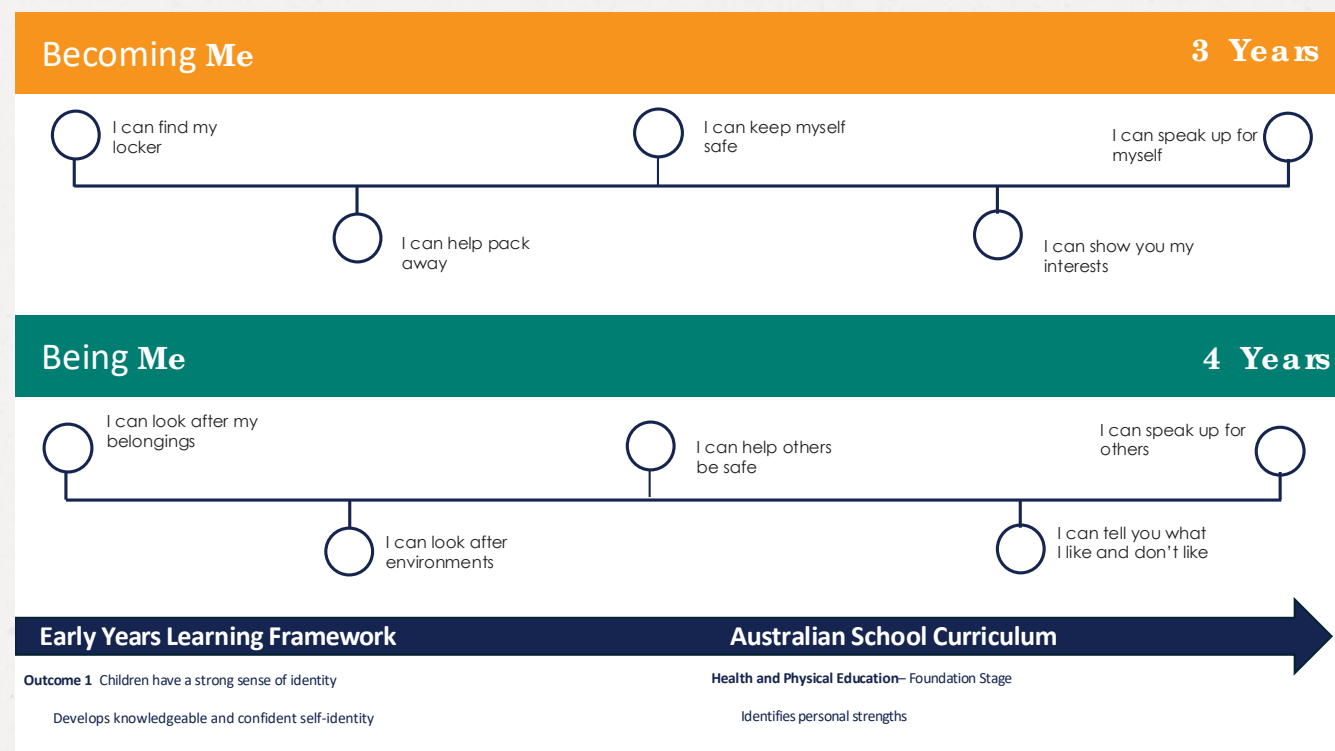
Development Pathways

We have created Development Pathways for each area in our Flying Start to School program that show 5 general milestones within that area of a child's development. Our team can observe your child and complete a Development Pathway at certain points during the year which easily show the progress your child is making. Every child is unique and develops at their own rate – so it is very normal for your child to be in different age ranges for their development. Our pathways take this into account – for example, your child may be developing some skills at a 3 year old level and some at a 4 year old level. This is normal and does not mean your child is 'behind' – it means we can support your child to develop by meeting them right where they are!

For children who may sit significantly outside the developmental norms for their age, we can support you to seek early intervention support for your child.

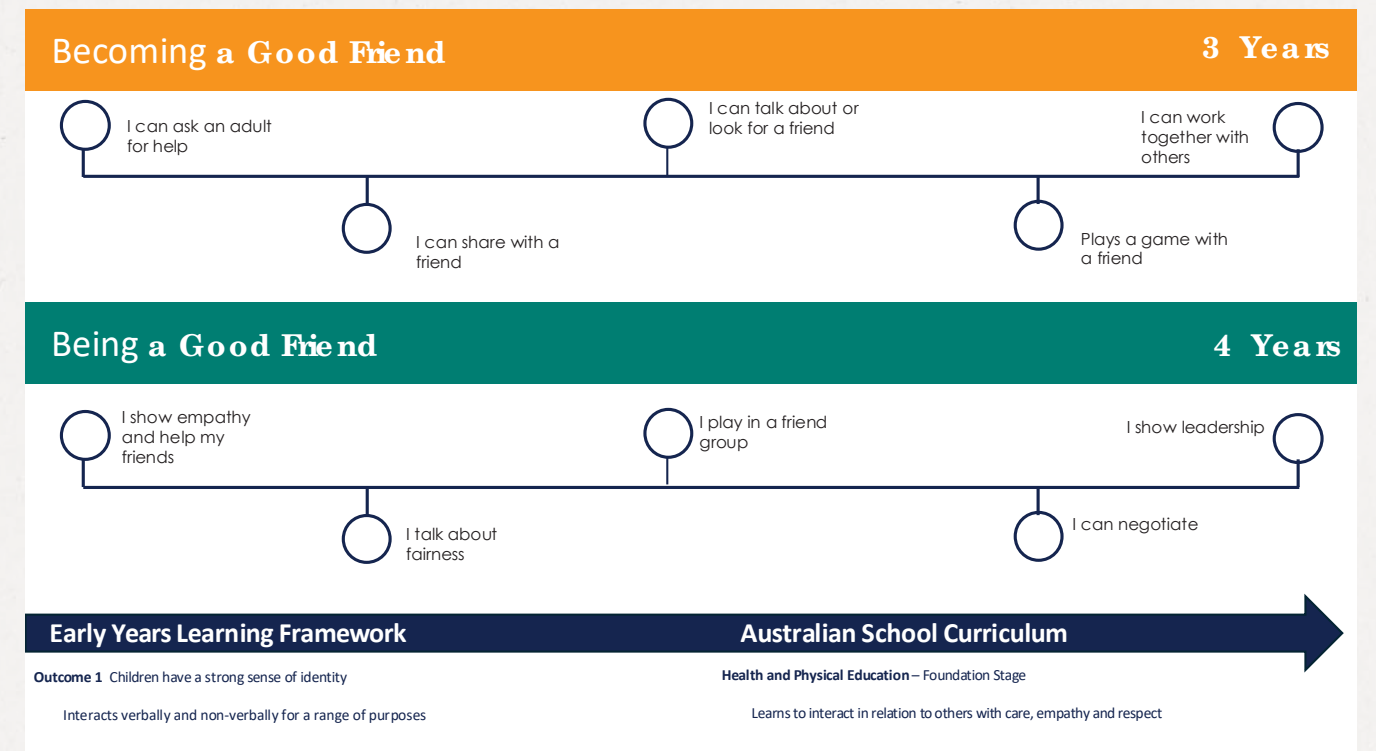
Becoming and Being ME

This pathway is about your child's sense of identity and belonging, independence, confidence and understanding themselves and others.



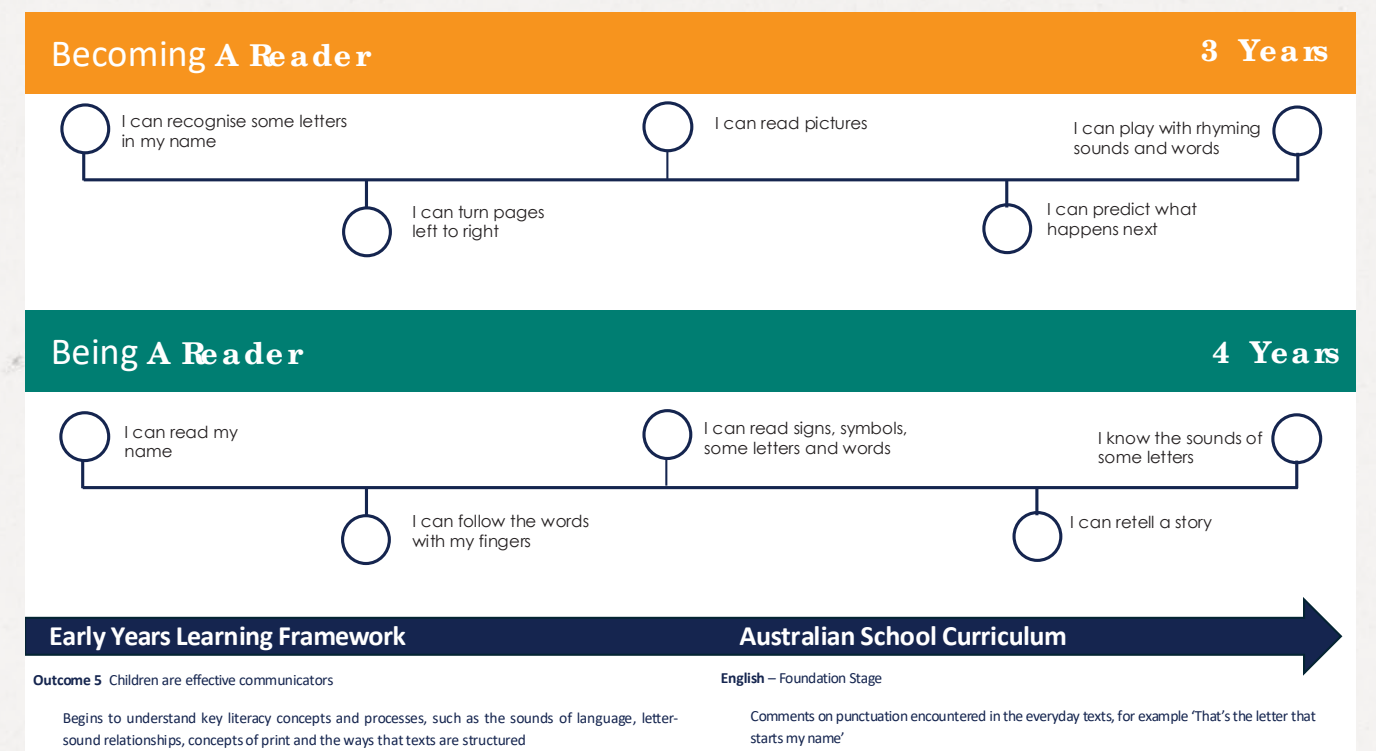
Becoming and Being A Good Friend

This pathway details your child's social development including the way they build relationships, interact with others with empathy, fairness and respect and form friendships.



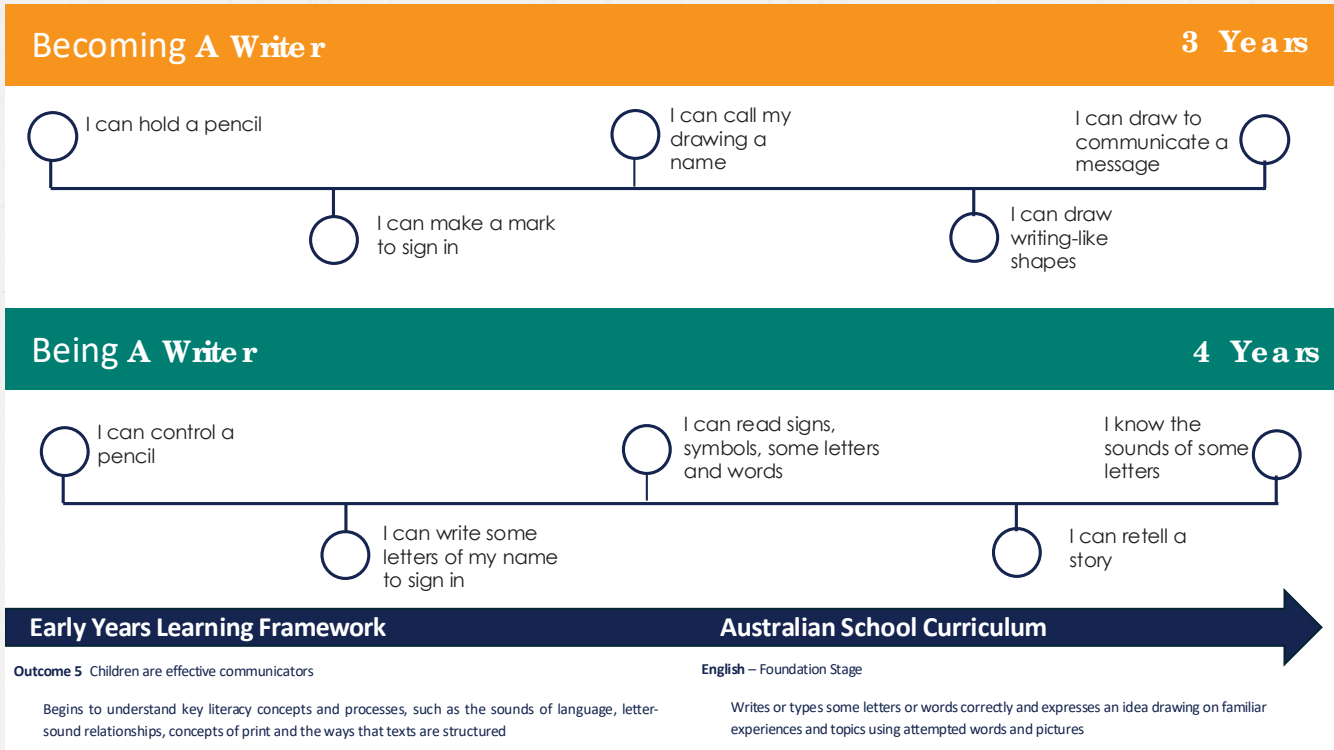
Becoming and Being A Reader

This pathway details your child's developing literacy skills in written, expressive and receptive language.



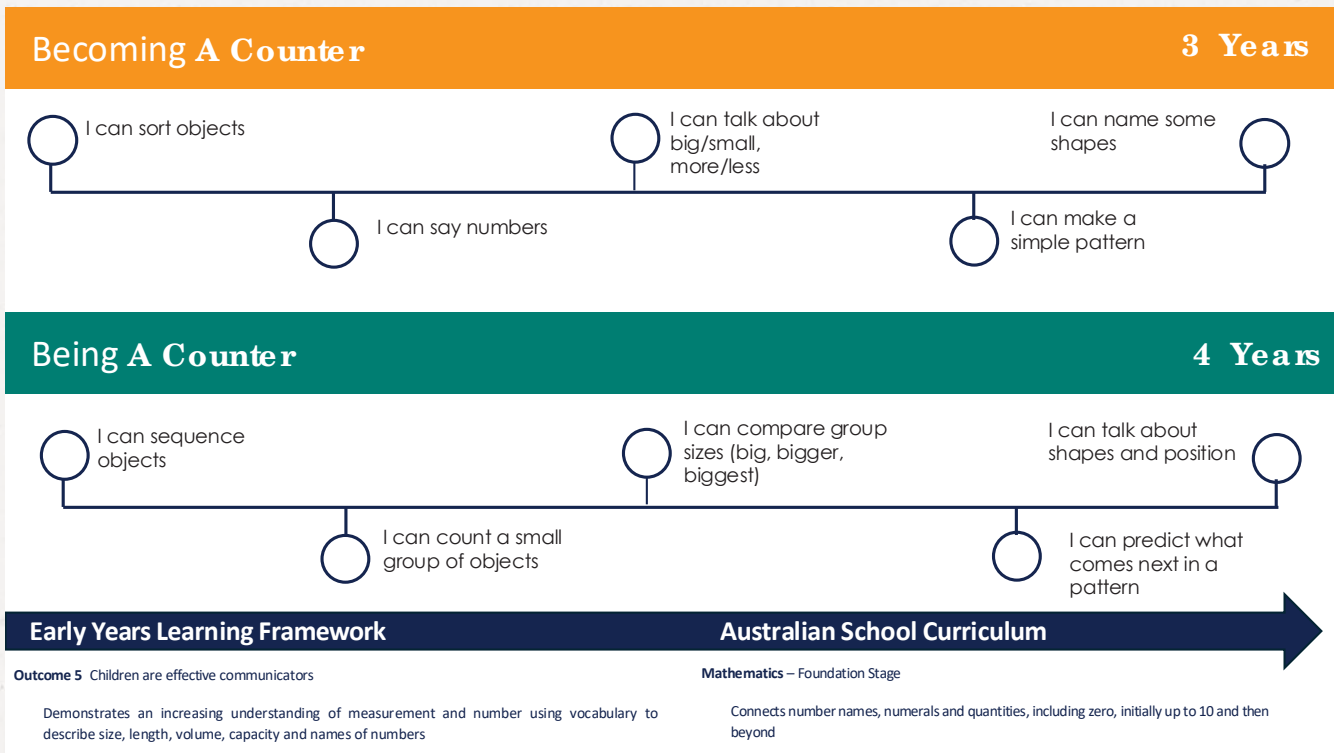
Becoming and Being A Writer

This pathway shows how children develop their ability to make marks and represent their ideas and language in a written format including drawing and beginning writing.



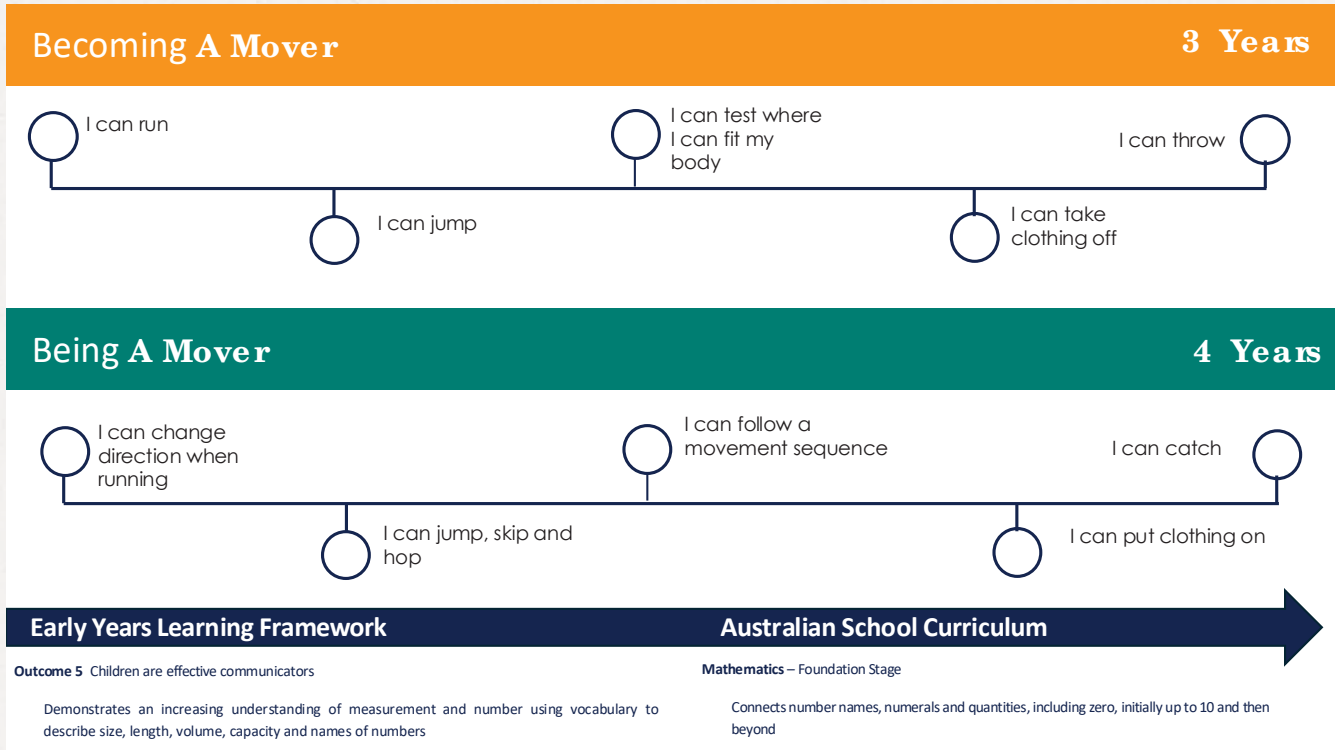
Becoming and Being A Counter

This pathway demonstrates each child's developing numeracy skills and concept development such as grouping, sequencing, size, shape and patterns and more!



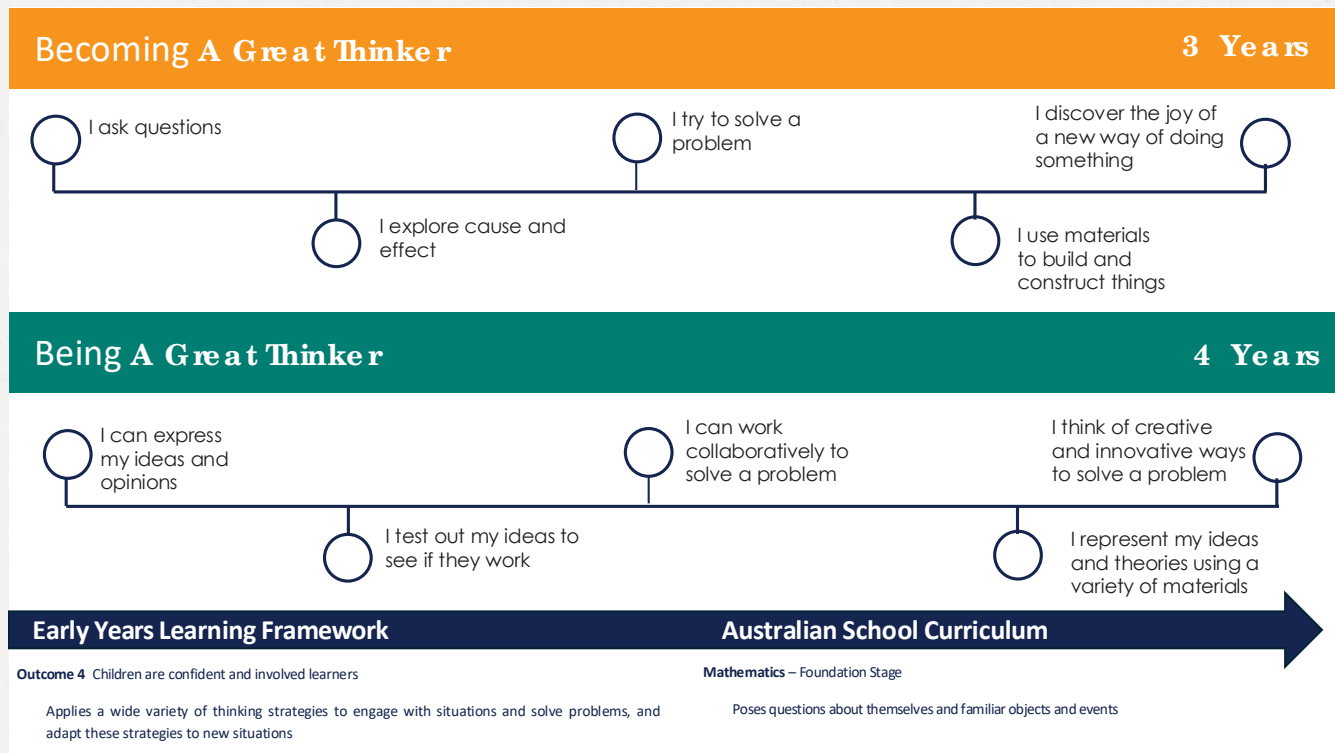
Becoming and Being A Mover

This pathway details each child's physical health and abilities of both their large muscle groups (such as running) and small muscle groups (such as putting on clothing).



Becoming and Being A Great Thinker

This pathway shows how children develop their abilities to solve problems, think of new ideas, develop theories about the world and test their ideas, work collaboratively and use creativity and innovation.





How does A Flying Start to School operate?

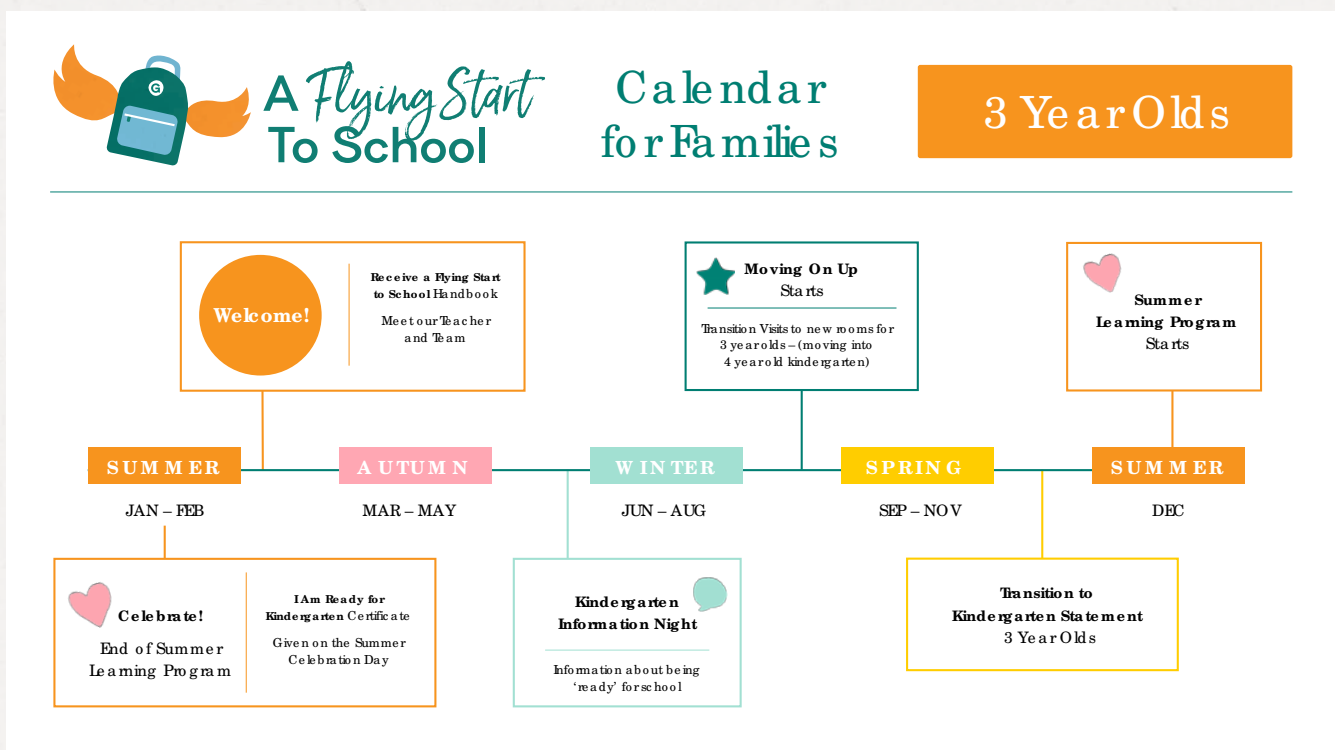
A Flying Start to School operates over a 2 year period for children aged 3-4 years and 4-5 years. Our educational program for children is implemented across the whole day your child is with us and we are open for the whole year! We have university-qualified Teachers and Teaching Teams (supported by a specialist Educational Leader) who plan and deliver our Flying Start to School program. We have made an easy-to-read calendar for each year of our program so you can see some of the key pieces of our Flying Start to School program and when they occur.

Over the Summer period from December to January each year we also provide a 4 week I Am Ready for School program for our 4 year old children to ensure they have a great start to their school experience

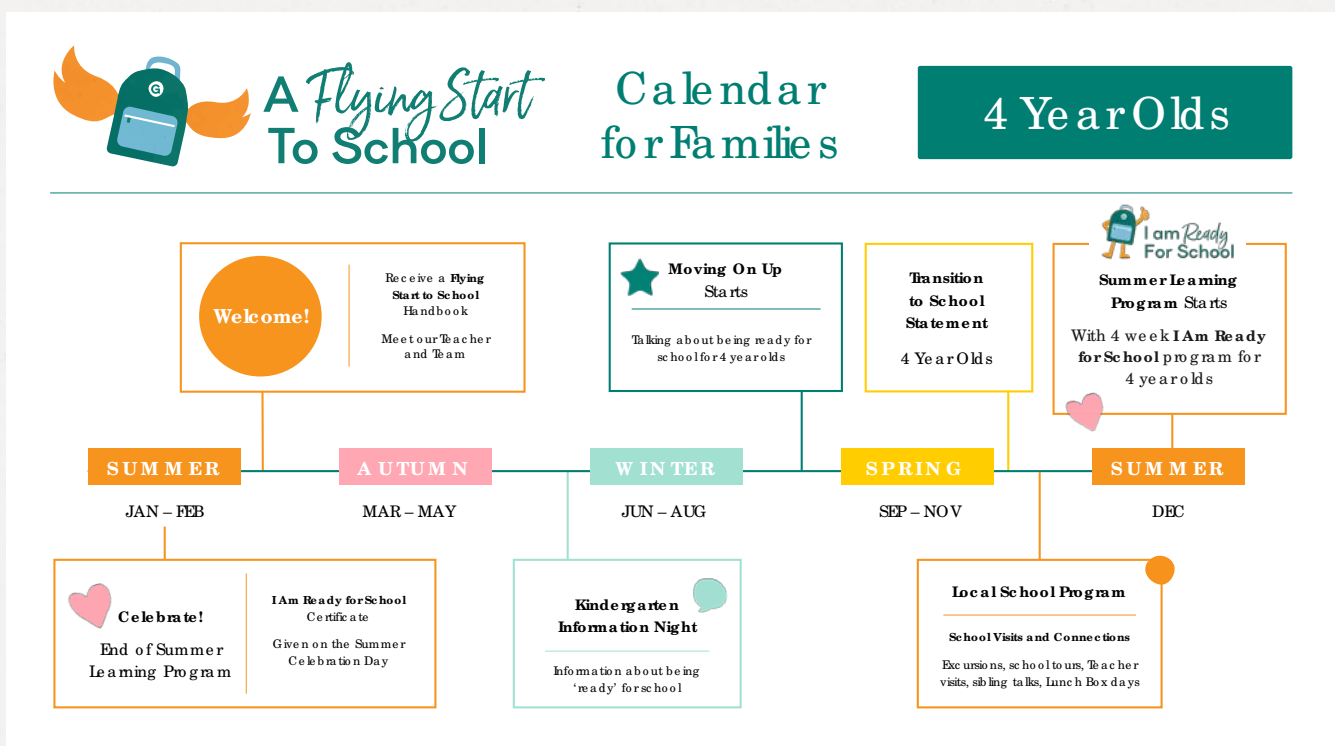


Guardian exceeds the sector with our National Quality Standard results for QA1 Educational Program and Practice

Our Calendar for Families 3 Year Olds is the first year of our Flying Start to School program where we welcome your child into Kindergarten and ensure you have all the information you need about their learning and progress throughout the year



Our Calendar for Families 4 Year Olds is the second year of our Flying Start to School program where we provide more intensive support for you and your child to feel 'ready' for big school through our Local School Program and our I Am Ready for School summer intensive.



Our Local School Program

Engaging with *Local Schools:* For 4 Year Olds

Our Local School Program encompasses a whole range of experiences that support your child to feel ready for moving on up to big school. Although we have children going to many different schools, we form a close connection with a school nearby our centre as part of the partnerships we have in our local community. This means we can do things like take all our 4 year old children on excursions to the school, or invite visitors to our centre like the Teacher or Principal. Learning about our local school supports our 4 year old group to get a sense of what big school is like as there are many similarities between school environments. We incorporate experiences into our educational program as part of this program as well as sharing information with families through daily conversations, Storypark and our Centre Newsletter.



We make connections with our local school



We talk to children about school and build their confidence



We support our families with information so you feel confident your child is starting strong




We plan learning experiences for children starting school as part of our weekly education program



I am Ready For School

I Am Ready for School is a program we run over the Summer period each year from December to January for our 4 year old children who will be leaving to start big school at end of January/beginning of February. This is a fun and supportive program to ensure all our 4 year old children feel confident and are able to have a successful and positive start to their school experience. Alongside their peers in our 4 year old learning group, your child can develop confidence in fun ways such as lunch box days, sharing pictures of their school uniforms, talking with their group about what school will be like and much more. At the end of this program we hold a Summer Celebration Day where your child will receive an I Am Ready certificate as a keepsake and part of celebrating this important milestone in their life.



I am Ready For School

Congratulations

Priscilla Carmichael

☐ **I know about MY school**
(I visited, I know my Teacher's name, I know my uniform)

☐ **I know about school days**
(my lunch box, how to enter the school, where the toilet is)

☐ **I am excited about:**

I am READY!

Teacher Name:
Centre Name:
Date:

Guardian
Childcare & Education

I AM READY FOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATES





How do children learn about *numbers, words, and ideas?*

When we take real objects and use them in the way that children understand in their world, we can create playful and meaningful learning experiences.

How do children learn about *words?*



1

We write letters and draw symbols to communicate meaning.



3

We explore a range of texts to understand words and how they are used.



4

We read and write to communicate with each other, our family and community.



2

We read every day. Having favourite books and stories develops a joy of reading throughout life.

How do children learn about *numbers?*



1

Numbers can mean objects or groups.



3

Geometry is about our relationship to objects around us.



4

Time helps us see the world change and develop.



2

Measurement helps us understand numbers can mean amounts.

Learning to think, imagine, and wonder.

The learning experience is enriched when children can use real objects that engage their senses, such as smell, taste, and touch.

1 Paper-based learning teaches a child to follow instructions. It asks **WHAT**.



2 A picture is better, but limits understanding.



3

Using real objects and engaging the senses creates opportunities for children to make connections, and develop thinking and problem-solving skills. It asks **HOW** and **WHY**.



Beyond the basics:

enriching learning experiences

Our Flying Start to School kindergarten programs include learning experiences that go beyond what you can get in a traditional program. Children find meaning through interacting with the world around them. And we want to deliver exceptional value for families. Learning experiences include:

The Joy of Reading

Reading aloud to children each day inspires imagination and supports thinking. Books with rhythm, rhyme and word patterns make stories more playful and memorable.

Outdoor Experiences

Outdoor experiences support children in developing the physical skills of balance, coordination, motor skills, awareness, as well as learning to work with others and building confidence.

Science

Learning experiences that create opportunities to begin to learn and understand maths and science. These hands-on experiences lay the foundation for future learning in STEM fields.

Art

Art experiences in kindergarten help children develop creativity, self-expression, and fine motor skills. They also encourage exploration, imagination, and an appreciation for different forms of art.

ELLA Language Program

Learning languages through Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) supports brain development and social skills and creates opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity.

Sustainability

From growing veggies and foraging in the garden for meal ingredients to learning about recycling, children learn about being part of a community, their environment, and their impact on the world.

Cooking

Cooking experiences teach numeracy by counting ingredients, and weighing and measuring quantities and volume, while managing these tasks supports independence and confidence.

Summer Learning Program

The Summer Learning Program supports ongoing learning and fun. Children stay connected to their friends while families are supported during the busy holiday period. Held December to January.

Learning
Experiences



Our commitment *to families*

Children learn and develop in individual ways – every child is different and unique! Our role as Teachers and Educators is to get to know your child – who they are as a person and how they learn best. We build a meaningful partnership with you – the family – so we can work together to support your child’s learning in the best possible way – for them.

A child’s learning is a partnership with families.

Communicating with families

The Storypark app puts you in your child’s learning space with photos, videos, and updates about your child throughout the day. You will feel like you are right there with your child.

Our door is always open

Families can arrange a time that suits you to meet with our Teachers and Educators to ask questions about our kindergarten program and get to know how it prepares your child for school, and beyond.

A planned approach

We consider the child’s current care and learning environment and room routine and compare this to the environment and routine they will be moving into to cater for any needed adjustments.

Visible Learning

Learning Exchange Displays in each learning space and on the Storypark app show the educational program our Teachers have created to support your child’s learning and development. Families can also learn more about how and when the program is offered and the teaching team’s qualifications, skills, expertise, and passion for caring for and educating your child.

Transition Statements

These are a summary of your child’s learning and development over time – a snapshot of their progress. We provide these to you towards the end of each year.

For 3-4 year old children who are finishing their first year in our Flying Start to School program (and moving into our 4 Year Old Kindergarten), we provide a Transition to Kindergarten Statement (we share this with our Teaching Team too!).

For 4-5 year old children who are moving to big school we provide you with a Transition to School Statement. This can be shared with your child’s new school. We know your child so well, and we want your child’s new Teacher at school to know them too!



Making the most of your *kindergarten experience*

Kindergarten is a time of rapid growth and valuable learning experiences. We want to ensure you’re getting the most out of those precious years before school.

What’s included in your fees?

Standard inclusions at all Guardian centres are:

- Long day care hours with high-quality kindergarten, led by degree-qualified Teachers
- All meals, prepared on-site by professional Cooks and Chefs using fresh ingredients
- All incursions and excursions
- Year-round care and learning
- Secure drop off and pick up.

Childcare Subsidy

If you’ve had a child in care, you might already be getting the Commonwealth Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS). We want to help you get the most out of your entitlement, so you can maximise the amount of time your child can spend in care, which supports vital learning and development. Use our CCS Calculator to check your entitlements.

Fee Help and Subsidies

Before you start, you want to ensure you’re getting the most out of the Commonwealth and State Government funding support.



Scan here to check your CCS entitlements





Questions?
We have answers

What is the difference between a sessional kindergarten and a kindergarten program in childcare?

The traditional sessional model offers 15 hours per week at set session times on set days of the week. Our programs are embedded through the entire day, with families accessing the centre on days and at times that suit whole family needs. Your child gets the full benefits of a structured program without you having to rearrange your working day to the sessional hours of a stand-alone kindergarten program.

When should my child start? Is it based only on their age?

Our Teachers and Educators know your child, and what type of learning environment they thrive in. They know if your child is more confident as a leader or a follower, or perhaps a combination in some areas. Kindergarten Teachers will be happy to share their insights to support you to decide if being an older or younger member of a group would be best.

What can I expect in the kindergarten program, and how will I know what is happening?

In response to a changing world and research into how children's brains develop, we have shifted our teaching practices to create open-ended, play-based experiences that:

- Teach basic numeracy and literacy skills through purposeful and meaningful experiences.
- Embed valuable social and emotional skills required to be confident and resilient.
- Have clear learning outcomes to prepare your child for formal schooling, and beyond.

Visible learning is how we show your child's progress. The Learning Exchange in each Centre shows what your child is doing on any given day. The Storypark app puts you in the room, with photos, videos, and updates about your child's day.

Do I need to send my child to a Centre closer to home to make friends with the children who will be going to school with them?

Relationships are the foundation of learning. Experiencing continuity of secure relationships builds the skills and confidence that children will draw on as they transition to school. Building on current relationships, within a well-known community will provide your child with confidence and skills to form new friendships at school.

Would it be helpful for my child to attend two kindergarten programs – one close to home and to stay here with their current friends as well?

Children who attend two programs are coping with double the change and expectation of starting school, but when they are a whole year younger. They will be expected to form and maintain two sets of relationships with Teachers and peers, remember where to find what they need in two learning environments, remember two daily rhythms, and two sets of expectations of how to engage in the experiences of the day.

Should a child be able to write their name to be ready for school?

No, your child does not need to be able to write their name before they go to school, but many will. Literacy at kindergarten provides the foundational skills for writing, such as experiences to support fine motor skills. Each experience also involves expressing an idea or concept, so that we connect the physical skills with the thinking ability that underpins writing.

My child has a birthday at the beginning of the year. Should I send them to school early or hold them back at kindergarten?

The options are to choose to start school early, or to stay in a kindergarten environment and head off to school with an extra year of life experience and maturity. Going to school as an older child is not being held back. It is an opportunity to continue to develop confidence, skills and maturity that will have impacts right through their school life and the transition to work or further study.

Will my child be physically ready for kindergarten or school?

Being physically ready is about developing confidence in their skills and in themselves. Jumping, running, climbing, drawing, painting, and all these experiences help develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. This development is ongoing and different for every child. We will be able to show you their progress and how your child is demonstrating their growth and development.

How does the kindergarten program support my child to be ready for school?

To prepare for school and life, children need skills to handle change and stay curious. Our program helps them take initiative, join in, work with others, and lead. They'll be eager to try new things and will grow into the problem solvers and creative thinkers our world needs. Our teachers use flexible teaching methods that adapt to each child's way of learning and interests. We're helping children build strong social and emotional skills for school and beyond.



BE Creative.
BE Bold.
BE Curious.