



E4: The Early Years

The Early Years: The beginning of a lifetime of learning.

At Talara Primary College we are committed to supporting children's development by:

- cherishing individual differences
- helping individuals to learn to live and work cooperatively
- promoting self-esteem

As Early Years Educators we believe that every child is an individual, bringing unique abilities and characteristics to their learning environment. We value opportunities for children to celebrate and share their successes.

Every child needs opportunities to show their strengths. At Talara, supportive caring environments are established in which children feel comfortable to take risks and try new things. Environments are conducive to learning and allow children to communicate, investigate, explore, think, create, participate, reflect, understand and develop lifelong learning skills.

Through an inquiry based / hands on approach to learning students will begin to construct meaning of their world.

**“Children are strong, rich and capable.
All children have preparedness, potential, curiosity,
and interest in constructing their learning, negotiating
with everything their environment brings to them.”
Gardini 1993**

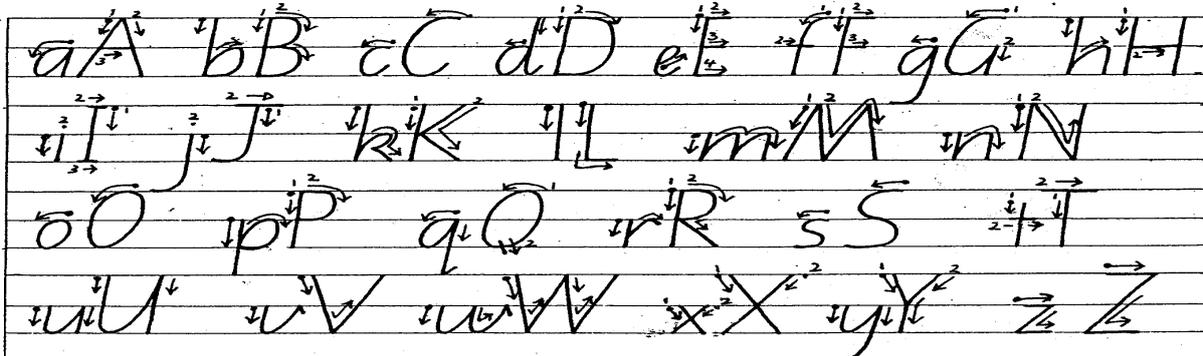
How can I help my child?

- Share information about your child with the teacher
- Chat with your child about what they're doing at school
- Visit the classroom for a brief chat or to take part in daily activities and/or special events
- Encourage your child to experiment with a range of materials and equipment
- Encourage your child to explore different ways to organise areas for example; their bedroom, play area and cubby
- Read together and talk about a range of everyday items such as signs, notices, letters, catalogues, magazines, TV guides, food packaging and bills
- Read and talk frequently about storybooks, factual books and rhymes
- Make available a variety of containers and materials for measuring, such as water, grain and sand
- Involve your child in family activities that investigate mathematical ideas such as: cooking, setting the table, matching socks and sharing a meal
- Provide 'junk' materials for making patterns and building things

Handwriting

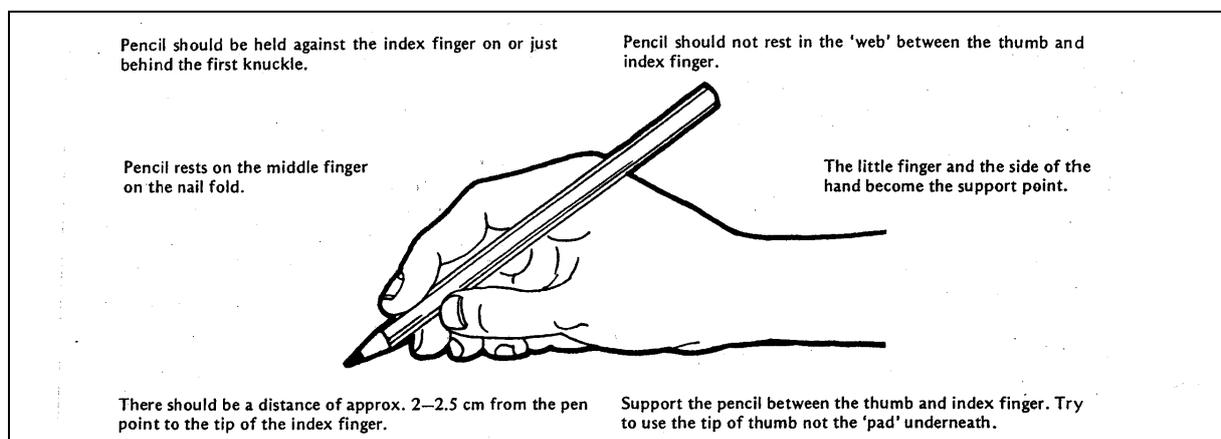
Our Prep to Year 2 students write using the Queensland Beginner's Alphabet. We encourage you to model writing your child's name using the Beginners Alphabet and to only use a capital for the initial letter and write the rest of their name in lower case.

THE BEGINNER'S ALPHABET



Pencil Grip

Encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip when writing and drawing as illustrated below.



Treasures from Home

Treasures can often be lost or broken and therefore we would appreciate it if toys were left at home. Through our sharing time students will be encouraged to share items relating to our term plan. All students will be notified of their time for sharing.

Junk Collection

Your junk is our treasure! If you have any of the following items at home that you no longer need please bring them along.

Collage materials:

- empty boxes, magazines
- streamers, pipe cleaners, feathers
- cellophane, confetti, tinsel, patty papers, foil,
- shells, pasta, egg cartons, wrapping paper
- buttons, beads, lace, ribbons, material scraps

Drama materials:

Hats, wigs, shoes, old jewellery, handbags, wallets, dress-up clothes, plastic wares – cups, bowls etc.

E5: The Prep Program

During the Preparatory Year at Talara Primary College our staff plan for student learning using the Foundation level of the Australian Curriculum in conjunction with the Education Queensland Early Years Curriculum Guidelines. Below are the learning areas your child will engage in during Prep:

Australian Curriculum
English
Mathematics
Science
HASS
HPE
LOTE
The Arts
Technologies

The Curriculum in Prep is designed to provide the foundation that children need for success in later schooling. Research has identified several factors that are connected with success at school. These include:

- independence
- social learning
- health and physical development
- language development
- early literacy and numeracy understandings
- ability to think and solve problems
- imagination and creativity
- a positive approach to learning

At Prep children will learn through:

- play
- investigations
- real life situations
- routines and transitions
- focused learning and teaching

During Prep students will enhance their:

- Skills to learn and work with each other;
- take on responsibilities
- respect other people
- co-operate with others
- develop their oral language
- Skills to transfer learning and to adapt readily to new circumstances and environments;
- make sensible choices about their health and safety
- develop their physical skills
- learn about their environment
- Skills of problem solving;
- learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- use their imagination and creativity
- develop their early literacy and mathematical understandings.
- Self-knowledge and self-esteem;
- become more independent

We consider the following principles for practice when planning learning experiences in the Early Phase of Learning:

1. children are capable and competent and have been learning since birth
2. children build deep understandings when they learn through all senses and are offered choice in their learning experiences
3. children learn best through interactions, active exploration, and experimentation and by representing their learning through a variety of modes
4. children's positive dispositions to learning, and to themselves as learners, are essential for success in school and beyond
5. children learn best in environments where there are supportive relationships among all partners in the learning community
6. early childhood programs are most effective when they recognize, value and build upon the cultural and social experiences of children
7. building continuity of learning as children move through school provides foundations for their future success
8. assessment of young children is an integral part of the learning/teaching process and is not a separate activity