



**PRESHIL**

THE MARGARET LITTLE MEMORIAL SCHOOL

THE EARLY YEARS  
ARLINGTON

COURAGE TO QUESTION



## WELCOME TO ARLINGTON | KINDERGARTEN

Early childhood is a special time for powerful experiences that forever fuel the imagination of the scientist, the artist, the author, the philosopher, the builder – all children carry these experiences into their future as a core of inspiration, confidence and creativity. What happens in these earliest years are lifelong, and life-shaping lessons.

The Kindergarten is nestled in the heart of the Arlington primary campus, fostering a 'feeling like home' with a large garden where children are nurtured and connected with others in this close community. The program and the way the day is structured allows for flexibility to accommodate the pace, needs and interests of the children. The three and four year olds are together, giving the younger children the opportunity to learn from the older children and the older children to be leaders at this young age. Time is spent listening to and discussing children's ideas; their choices are respected in independent and democratic decision-making.

# LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

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Children's wellbeing and learning is thoughtfully planned to broaden and extend their experiences through intentional and guided inquiry with teachers. The deliberate and careful planning leads to a free-flowing program. Learning is collaborative, between children and teachers, children and peers. We approach experiences with excitement, ownership and possibility together. Our teaching approach is informed by current theory and research, enabling us to work innovatively with the children to challenge and develop their ideas and understandings in the context of imagination, creativity and play.

The importance of self esteem, community, thinking skills, conceptual development, sense of self and others forms the basis of our program. Children, with their teachers, create shared imaginary situations, engage in imaginative 'playworlds' as a platform to investigate everyday experiences more deeply. Imagination allows children to develop important symbolic representation and creative, critical and abstract thinking skills. Safe risks are encouraged in play and learning where children can 'be courageous', supported to feel proud and confident as they grow and learn more about their world and their place in it.



## KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

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The program consists of a balance of collaborative projects, small-group teacher-led experiences and smooth transitions throughout the daily routine. Children have time for free play and time to pursue their individual interests. They are encouraged to learn by observing, questioning, discussing, wondering, doing, making, collaborating and expressing their thinking in ways that reflect their individuality, strengths and creativity. A love of books, stories, role play, reading and writing are cultivated and form the basis of Literacy, Numeracy and Science. Specialist Philosophy, Art, Music, French and Dance teachers work with the children each week alongside the core program.

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## TRANSITION TO 5s PREP

As part of our transition program, the 4s visit the 5s several times a week for a collaborative project. Using story, teachers engage in shared imaginary role play, and explicit teaching, to deepen the children's learning around concepts, both social/emotional and scientific.

The 5s space is a carefully considered, unique area at Preshil. The program allows the children and teacher to engage in the building blocks of Literacy and Numeracy as well as other aspects of the Curriculum. At the core of our approach is flexibility and relationships, for the purpose of personalising and intentionally planning the space and experiences, allowing for the specific needs of the children. Play, choosing, making and creating a caring environment where children feel at home continues to be an important part of children's learning in the 5s in order for them to be confident thinkers of the future.



## OUR TEACHERS

Our Kindergarten offers an exceptional program led by our highly experienced staff. In 2013 the Kindergarten achieved an overall 'exceeding the national quality standard' rating in all seven quality areas as part of The National Quality Framework Assessment.

## EXTENDED CARE

The Kindergarten offers Extended Care at no additional cost to our Kindergarten families from 8:00 to 8:50am and from 3:15 to 6:00pm. Both programs are located within the Kindergarten grounds.

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## PRESHIL VISION STATEMENT

At our core remains an unshakeable commitment to encouraging all children to progress at their own pace towards their own goals and to be respected as individuals in their own right. This means a commitment to our children to be nurtured and challenged in an atmosphere that inspires creativity and independent thinking in all areas of life and does not, overtly or subtly, use competition or punishment to motivate through the fear of failure. As global citizens we encourage an awareness of world issues and encourage effort to make a positive difference. We believe that education should prepare students to be thoughtful, peace-loving and active citizens of the world. Preshil will remain a school that puts kindness, compassion and social relationships at the centre of its operations.

## MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to learn more about the Kindergarten or Extended Care at Preshil, please join us for a school tour. These are held at Arlington, the Primary Campus, at 395 Barkers Road, Kew. Please register your intention to attend by contacting the school Registrar, Cressida Batterham-Wilson.

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