

Little Burra Preschool at Bonython Primary School Handbook



ACT
Government
Education

BONYTHON PRIMARY SCHOOL
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What is Little Burra's Learning Philosophy?

At Little Burra Preschool we support all children as curious, capable and courageous inquirers. We learn with Purpose and Passion as Researchers, Thinkers, Collaborators, Communicators and Self Managers. We guide each child's development of these through shared, spontaneous and personalised inquiry and play. We empower students with the skills and disposition to be successful lifelong learners. Our work is grounded within the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and adheres to the National Quality Framework (NQF).

Little Burra Preschool embraces an inquiry approach to learning which aims to harness children's natural curiosities and wonderings. At Little Burra, children have the opportunity to learn through play, both indoors and outdoors, including Loose Parts play and inquiries led by their own interests. Bonython Primary School has a strong commitment to environmentally sustainable practices and a focus on connection to Country.



What does a day at Little Burra look like?

Preschool Days

The children attend preschool five days each fortnight and are either in the beginning of the week class, called the Possums, or the end of the week class, called the Echidnas, alternating on Wednesdays.

	Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9	Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
Possums	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	Monday, Tuesday
Echidnas	Thursday, Friday	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

What to pack in your child's school bag

- A change of clothes, including underwear, in case of toileting accidents or messy play.
- Fruit Break (fruit or vegetables), food for Lunch, a snack for Afternoon Tea. Please pack Fruit Break separately and check that your child can open and close their containers.
- Drink bottle filled with water. Please also ensure your child can open and close their drink bottle. These can be refilled at preschool during the day.
- A SunSmart hat for August to April (broad brimmed hat, bucket hat or Legionnaire hat). No caps, please. Hats can stay at school in the child's hat pocket. Children are welcome to wear beanies in May, June and July.
- A cloth or plastic bag for library borrowing, labelled with your child's name. The children will visit the school library once a week.
- There's no such thing as bad weather at Little Burra, just inadequate clothing! Children are welcome to bring jackets, raincoats, gumboots, beanies, gloves and umbrellas so that they can play outside on cold and rainy days.

Please encourage your child to leave their toys at home. There are plenty of things to play with at Little Burra and home toys often get lost or broken which leads to disappointment.

Clothing

The children are encouraged to wear the school uniform each day. This is a valley green shirt, navy blue pants/shorts/skirt/skorts and navy blue jumper. School uniforms can be purchased by visiting the Flexi Schools website or completing a paper order form. The order form can then be placed, with payment, in the P&C box in the school's front office. Once the uniforms have arrived they will be sent to your child's classroom for them to bring home. Please email the P&C at bpspca@hotmail.com or visit their Facebook page if you have any further enquiries. Children are encouraged to wear enclosed shoes that are safe for running and climbing. Children are welcome to remove their socks and shoes when playing in the sandpit.

The Preschool Day

The preschool day starts at 8:45am and ends at 2:45pm. To start the day, families support their children to put their bags away, wash their hands with soap then engage with a sign in activity. Once complete, the children may choose to play indoors or outdoors. During the day, the children will engage with some short, whole group learning times and some longer blocks of uninterrupted play. The children will have fruit break, lunch and afternoon tea. Before pick up time, the children are given the opportunity to rest. At pick up time, families are asked to wait outside for their child to exit the classroom. Your child will need to be collected by someone from the list of authorised people that you complete at the beginning of the year. Please notify your child's teacher if someone new will be picking up your child. Older children are not permitted to collect their preschool siblings.

Before and After School Care

Bonython's Out of Hours School Care (OHSC) Program is run by Communities@Work. The program operates before school from 7:30am until school commences and after school until 6:00pm daily. Preschoolers attending OHSC will be dropped off and picked up at Preschool by an OSHC Educator.

Contact Information

Phone: 1300 212 273

Email: enrolments@commsatwork.org

[Communities@Work - Bonython Primary](#)

How is learning documented and shared?

Seesaw

Educators document children's individual journeys and progress as well as capturing whole class experiences through the Seesaw app. Entries are annotated and EYLF folder tags are used to make links between learning experiences and the EYLF outcomes. Families have the opportunity to provide feedback by 'liking' or commenting on the post. Information on how to access Seesaw will be sent home to families at the beginning of the year.

Programming

The learning experiences are planned using children's interests and curiosities as well as educator observations and reflections. These experiences are flexible and may change as we respond to the direction of the shared and spontaneous inquiries. A printed copy of the program is on display and a digital copy is posted to families via Seesaw. Learning experiences are colour coded to match the EYLF outcomes.

Semester Reports

Reports are provided to each family at the end of each semester. These are aligned with the EYLF and include descriptions of some of the child's learning observed at preschool as well as suggested next steps. They include the child's reflection of their preschool highlights.

How is the health and wellbeing of children supported at Little Burra?

Preparing for Preschool

Each family is invited to a 'Getting to Know Your Preschooler' interview with the current preschool teachers. This is an opportunity for the preschool teachers to get some insight into your child in order to best support their transition to preschool and for you to ask any questions you may have. Prior to the interview, families are provided with a 'Getting to Know Your Preschooler' online form to complete. Please ensure the school has copies of any documentation of any medical conditions or custody arrangements that apply to your child. The [Education Directorate's Starting School guide](#) has useful tips and resources that families might like to access.

Toileting

Little Burra has child-sized toilets and sinks to support the independence of our Preschoolers. Children have access to the facilities throughout the day and educators will give toileting support to those children who require it while maintaining their privacy and dignity.

We are a Peanut Aware School

Bonython Primary School has a number of children who suffer from life threatening anaphylactic (allergic) reactions to nuts and other food products. To provide a safe environment for all students, we ask that children do not bring peanut butter, nuts or nut products to school.

Birthdays and Traditional Celebrations

Celebrating traditions that are important to each child and their family is a vital part of developing their own identity within the context of their families and communities. Families are invited to share any celebrations and traditions that are important to their family. Children are welcome to bring a treat to share with the class on their birthday. Please be aware that due to dietary or cultural requirements, some children will not be able to accept some types of food. For hygiene reasons, please consider individual serves rather than a treat to share. Please talk to your child's teacher for more information.

Child Development Service

Educators at Little Burra support families to engage with the Child Development Service (CDS) as required. The CDS offers assessment, referral, information and linkages for children 0 to 6 years where there are concerns relating to their development and offers Speech Pathologist, Physiotherapist or Occupational Therapist Drop In Clinics. These clinics provide parents with an opportunity to discuss concerns about their child's development with a qualified allied health professional. Please see the following webpages for more information and drop in clinic times.

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice>

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice/drop-in-clinics>

Medical Action Plans and Risk Minimisation Plans

Children with diagnosed conditions require a current Medical Action Plan. Families are asked to provide initial information about their child through 'Getting to Know Your Preschooler' interviews including documentation of any medical conditions. Plans are then created with families for children with medical or personal care needs. Further planning can be implemented to support children with additional access and participation needs. Educators work with families and external providers to develop these plans as appropriate to a child's developmental needs.

Preparing for Kindergarten

The Preschoolers at Little Burra are valued members of the Bonython Primary School community and will automatically be enrolled to attend Kindergarten in our school. The Preschoolers engage in a variety of experiences at the primary school and with a range of primary school children throughout the year such as visiting the school library, attending whole school events and learning with the "big kids" about whole school initiatives such as sustainability. In Term 4, the children will have additional opportunities to participate in other transition experiences, such as spending time in the Kindergarten classrooms, in preparation for a smooth move to Kindergarten next year.

How can families build a successful partnership with the school community?

Stay in touch and stay informed

Families and carers can stay in touch with their child's teacher via the Seesaw app. The [Bonython Primary School Facebook Page](#) and [Bonython Primary P&C Facebook Page](#) are both regularly updated with information and the latest happenings at the school. If you are not on Facebook the [The Bonython Primary School Website](#) has live updates from the school's Facebook page, information about our school and relevant links.

Provide feedback

Throughout the year, educators will ask for feedback or input about learning experiences or other relevant practices. We value the feedback from our families and appreciate you taking the time to complete these survey requests. Families are also welcome to provide positive and constructive feedback at any time during the year.

Participate in community events

Preschool community gatherings are hosted throughout the year to bring our preschool community together. These events are inspired by current events, learning and happenings within the community.

Whole school events and fundraisers happen throughout the year across the school such as the Book Week Parade. Fundraisers, usually organised by students at the school, happen throughout the year. These can entail children dressing up to raise money for charities or school events, such as Year 6 Graduation.

Preschool or whole school events will be communicated via the Seesaw app or on posters displayed at Preschool and around the school.

School Board and P&C

Consider joining the school board or supporting the P&C to run events such as the Father's Day stall. Please contact the P&C at bpspca@hotmail.com.

What are the key regulations that Little Burra follows?

[ACECQA National Law and National Regulations](#)

[ACECQA National Quality Standards](#)

[Infectious Diseases - Outbreak Procedures and Exclusion Periods Policy](#)

Education Directorate Concerns and Complaints Policy

If you have a concern or complaint about your child's schooling, education or welfare:

Step 1: Discuss your concern with your child's teacher.

Step 2: Discuss your concern with the Preschool Team Leader or member of the school executive team.

Step 3: If your concern remains unresolved, contact the Families & Students, Complaints & Feedback Unit via the [ACT Education Directorate contact form](#) or by phone (02) 6205 5429 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Accidents and Injuries

All educators are First Aid trained. Families must be notified of any incident, injury, trauma or illness while the child is in our care. Families will receive a phone call for any head bump, no matter how minor. Injuries requiring first aid treatment such as the application of an ice pack or a bandaid will be documented and families asked to read and sign to acknowledge on pick up at the end of the day.

Quality Improvement Plans

Every preschool must have a Quality Improvement Plans (QIP) in place. The aim of a QIP is to help providers self-assess their performance in delivering quality education and care and to plan future improvements. The QIP also helps regulatory authorities with assessing the quality of the service. Bonython Preschool's Quality Improvement Plan can be provided upon request.

Domestic Animals

Under the Domestic Animals Act 2000, domestic animals may not be taken on to school grounds, or fields or playing areas where training or sport is being conducted, without permission of the principal.

Where can I find more information about Bonython Primary School?

School Contact Details

Phone: 02 6142 0640

Email: bonythonps@ed.act.edu.au

Website: <https://www.bonythonps.act.edu.au>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BonythonPS

Education Directorate Contact Details

Phone: 02 6205 5429

Website: <https://www.education.act.gov.au>

Additional Resources and Links

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority. *What is the National Quality Framework?* <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/about>

Early Years Learning Framework

https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-02/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf

Education Directorate's Starting School guide

https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/starting_school

Kath Murdoch. 2019. *A model for designing a cycle of inquiry.*

<https://www.kathmurdoch.com.au/>

Lisa Daly & Miriam Beloglovsky. 2015. *Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children.*

<https://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2015/loose-parts>