



Early Learning Centre Educational Program

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Mackay Christian College Early Learning Centre believes that every child is a unique creation of God. All children have God given gifts and talents but not every child is the same. Our purpose is to help every child to 'become all God wants them to be.' We hope to foster an environment where children can feel relaxed, happy and comfortable in a fun environment that they have created and with a program they have helped design. We believe that children are capable of knowing truth about themselves and their world and they enjoy engaging in life and learning through meaningful play. We understand that they are complex, whole beings made in the image of God, subject to many influences and in need of guidance and support. They are individually gifted by God for His purposes and designed to function in, and contribute to, an interdependent community.

Our goals are:

- To support each child in their discovery of the Person of Jesus Christ, God's Son.
- To inspire each child's love of learning through play and through supporting their social awareness, emotional maturity, cultural ethnicity and background, communication skills, critical learning, physical development and spiritual growth.
- To present a physical environment that is aesthetically pleasing, safe and stimulating.
- To encourage good health, nutrition and hygiene practices for children, staff and families.
- To encourage our staff to grow in their professional journey as positive role models and facilitators through seeking and implementing up to date research and theories.
- For all children to be inspired, develop curiosity and investigate the world through play.
- To encourage all children to be the best they can be and celebrate their own uniqueness, the uniqueness of others and their achievements.
- To allow individuals to plan their learning and develop at their own natural pace.
- To create trusting, collaborative partnerships between children, staff and families.
- To promote equity, inclusion and diversity in children and staff and to incorporate this throughout the program.
- To provide a program, including routines that maximises each child's learning.

Nourishing Education & Firm Foundations

We aim to create a nourishing MCC Early Learning Centre that is rich in culture and where the curriculum is enhanced with a variety of information. Everyone is part of the teaching and learning process and acts as coach, aiding children to investigate and not settle for the first answer. We believe this enables children to learn and grow to the best of their potential. At MCC Early Learning Centre, we believe we are beginning their journey in faith and education. Our hope is that with confidence the children will continue their schooling, healthy in mind, body and spirit; secure that their ideas and thinking are valued. Such a strong foundation provides our children with the opportunity for the growth of a love for learning which will assist them in their life-long education.

Safe Environment

The MCC Early Learning Centre is a happy, relaxed environment where learning experiences contribute to each child's understanding of themselves, others and the created world. Godly attitudes and values will be encouraged. We aim to provide children with a place where they feel valued. A place where their talents and interests are developed in a fun and relaxing environment. A place where they can be inspired to develop

curiosity and investigate the world around them. The MCC Early Learning Centre harnesses the ethos of the College while providing quality childcare in a Christian environment.

Our Curriculum

Our Early Learning Centre Programming Model was born out of the Emergent Curriculum Model and incorporates its fundamental principles. Therefore, the curriculum is constantly evolving and designed to engage children in activities relevant to their experiences. Our curriculum is founded upon the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), and the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline (QKLG) informs our kindergarten program.

This framework recognises children as competent individuals and gives credit for the things they can do while supporting them in areas where they are still developing. The curriculum nurtures the child through an investigative approach using their areas of interest. It encompasses a skilful balance of spontaneous and intentional learning opportunities. It is well-resourced, giving children access and freedom to a variety of materials and investigative tools.

The children are actively involved in activities that include:

- Projects and activities which support early literacy and numeracy skills
- Discussion and planning about learning through mind mapping
- Spontaneous experiences
- In-depth investigations of topics in which they have shown interest
- Complex reasoning tasks and situations
- Working together in partnership and self-selection opportunities

Important Partnerships

Our Early Childhood teachers and children work in partnership as researchers seeking out answers to questions and supporting investigation. In a sense, the child becomes the architect or designer of their own learning while the teacher is their recorder of information and aid in choosing what path to take. This partnership has meaningful outcomes for the child and develops the teacher professionally. This is a direct result of children learning as they are doing, through exploration, creative thinking, inquiry, opportunity, investigation and repetition. Our Parents/Carers are an important part of the curriculum and partner in the learning process. Parents/Carers can offer valuable information on real life experiences they have had with their child that can then be integrated into the program. This creates strong bonds within the MCC Early Learning Centre and acts as a further resource for exploring ideas and interests.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Today we acknowledge our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
We acknowledge you Lord because you are the Creator,
Provider and Supreme Owner of all things.

Mackay Christian College Pre-Prep Learning Centre
acknowledges the Yuwi peoples, the Traditional Owners
and Custodians of the Land on which we work and play.

We also acknowledge and extend our respects to Elders,
past and present and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
peoples of all lands across Australia.

We recognise and celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples
of Australia, including their role in the education and care
of children.

We recognise the rich and diverse cultures of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the valuable
contribution diversity brings.