



MACKAY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

a place where you belong

Prep Fact Sheet

At Mackay Christian College we provide a 5-day full time program. Using the Australian Curriculum, we gradually transition from an informal, inquiry-based mode of instruction, with a focus on play-based learning activities, into a more formal, teaching and learning approach by the middle of the year.

How old does my child need to be for them to be eligible for Prep?

Birth Date:	Your child can start Prep in:	Your child can start Year 1 in:
1 July 15 – 30 June 16	2021	2022
1 July 16 – 30 June 17	2022	2023

How will I know if my child is ready for Prep?

Children develop individually at different rates. The most important indicators of readiness are a child's social and emotional development rather than their academic ability. Some indicators that may demonstrate readiness in order to make the Prep transition a smooth one are:

Toileting and self-dressing, sitting still and focusing to complete short tasks, can listen to others, following instructions given by an adult, verbalising communicating with adults and other children, age appropriate fine motor control (including pencil control), recognising own name and some letters, counting to 5 and counting 5 objects, and respecting the personal space of others.

What if my child is not ready for Year 1 after a year in Prep?

The teachers in the Prep classes at MCC will communicate with parents if they feel their child is not ready to move to Year 1. We also invite parents to speak to their child's teacher if they feel their child may not be ready, although most students are ready for Year 1 by the end of Prep.

How can I help my child to prepare for Prep?

1. Speak positively about going to Prep two weeks before your child begins. Explain that each day they will be staying with their teacher and you will return to collect them later.
2. Show them their Prep things and explain what they are for.
3. Practise not eating between breakfast and first snack time (9:30 am each school day).
4. Teach your child to go to the toilet and re-dress themselves.
5. Try to include some times of quiet, focused activity in your child's day (e.g. looking at books or drawing).
6. Bring your child to our Orientation Day to meet the teacher and to see their Prep classroom.
7. Teach them to open the food containers and packaging that will be in their lunch box.
8. Attend story telling/craft sessions at a local Library. This will prepare them for listening in group situations.
9. Play games with rules where children practise the important social skills of sharing, waiting for a turn and coping during competition.
10. Ensure they get adequate sleep the week before Prep begins, and throughout the year.
11. Practise recognising their name when it is written for them and writing their name in lower case.
12. Practise counting up to the number 10.
13. Sing the alphabet with your child.
14. Read stories to your child.