



VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL

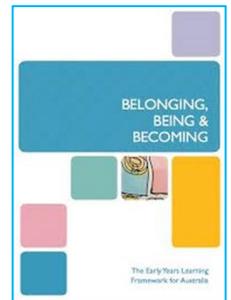
Learning Together, Learning for our Future
RESPECT CARING FAIRNESS ACHIEVEMENT DIVERSITY

Week 1, Term 1, 2020

The curriculum at Virginia Preschool reflects the 'Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) for Australia – Belonging, Being and Becoming' and the Department for Education's Preschool Indicators of Numeracy and Literacy. Children participate in a range of activities and structured learning times according to their level of development to achieve desired outcomes.

The Outcomes are:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators



Some of the particular focuses for the term in relation to these outcomes are:

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- Sense of belonging
- 'Getting to know you' activities and games
- Social skills such as greetings, manners, sharing and turn-taking
- Child Protection Curriculum topics including:
 - Safe and unsafe behaviours
 - Community helpers

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- Caring for the preschool environment
- Gardening/Composting
- Recycling
- Community/group participation
- Creating a safe and cohesive preschool community
- Friendship skills

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- Basic hygiene skills
- Fine motor and gross motor strength
- Developing risk minimisation plans in relation to 'safe play practices'

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- Learning disposition focus – curiosity and sense of wonder
- Science: volcano experiment
- Plant life cycle

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- Oral language focus
- Phonological Awareness – syllables and rhyme
- Numeracy – shape recognition, numeral recognition and using the standard number system
- SSP Phonics Program

Friendship skills

One of the first topics children learn about at preschool, is 'how to be a good friend'. Children participate in discussions about what skills are required to be a 'good friend', this includes learning how to share, greeting their peers, knowing their friends' names, inviting all to play and caring for others. We strongly promote friendships that are respectful and inclusive of all children. As a staff team we are dedicated to ensuring that all children feel a strong sense of belonging within our preschool community.

Child Protection Curriculum

It is compulsory for all preschools and schools in South Australia to cover the 'Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum'. As part of the 'Being Safe' topic children will be learning about safe and unsafe behaviours in order for them to develop an understanding of safety for themselves and their peers and to assist in creating a preschool environment that is safe for all. We will also engage in learning about community helpers which provides children with knowledge about keeping safe in the wider community.

Caring for the Environment

Recycling and caring for the environment is a major component of the preschool curriculum that teaches children valuable life lessons and fosters the development of responsible citizens for our future. Children participate in daily sustainable practice routines such as gardening, composting and recycling. To further support children's knowledge of recycling practices at home children sort materials into red, yellow and green coloured bins.

Life Cycle focus

In conjunction with caring for the environment children participate in gardening activities, including planting both seedlings and seeds, learning first-hand about the life cycle of a plant. To further develop and scaffold children's learning children will be exposed to tier 3 and 4 topic-related words, take part in discussions about where food comes from and human dependency on plants.

Phonological Awareness

Children participate in phonological awareness games and activities on a daily basis. Phonological awareness refers to the sounds of language. It is the ability to reflect on the sounds in words separate from the meanings of words. Good sound awareness skills in preschool are one of the most powerful predictors of success in reading and spelling in school.

Numeracy Focus

As part of our numeracy learning we will be focussing on colour and shape recognition, numeral recognition, sequential order and counting collections.

SSP Phonics Program

This term we will begin introducing children to the first level of the SSP phonics program. SSP supports children to develop the necessary decoding skills to become balanced readers and the phonics program that Virginia Primary School uses. The first six sounds that we will be looking at this term include 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i' and 'n'.

Dates to remember:

- **Weeks 3 and 4** – 'Getting to know my child interviews'
- **Wednesday 12th February** – Child and Youth Health Visit. Each term a Child and Youth Health nurse visits the Preschool to conduct 'Four Year Old Health Checks'. This allows all children to have their health check done throughout the course of the year. Staff can accompany those children whose parents are unable to attend. Please see Jodie if you have any questions or require further information.
- **Monday 9th March** – Public holiday, Adelaide Cup, **NO PRESCHOOL.**
- **Monday 16th-20th March** – World Harmony Week. Harmony Week is an annual celebration of Australia's cultural diversity. Children will be involved in activities with an 'orange' theme as orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week.