

Early Years Program

Early Years

The term *Early Years* refers to the years of schooling from Prep to Year Three. The Early Years of schooling is a crucial time for children to celebrate their uniqueness, to develop social, emotional and behavioural well-being, and to experience success in learning. At St Francis Xavier Primary School, a young child's sense of self and sense of God will be based on love, kindness, patience, dependability and trust, all of which are ideally modelled by parents/carers, teachers and members of the faith community. The classroom teaching and learning of Religion in the early years occurs within the context of general principles and priorities underlining the Catholic character of Religious Education in schools.

Early Years Teachers at St Francis Xavier School:

- understand children
- build partnerships through collaboration
- co-construct flexible learning environments
- create learning experiences with children
- make curriculum decisions through planning, interacting, reflecting, and monitoring and assessing.

Play Based Learning: Play is particularly effective for learning the foundational concepts, oral language, thinking processes and social competence that children require to be successful learners in school. When children learn through play and are actively engaged in learning, new understandings, capabilities and character are more likely to be sustained and extended over time. With experience, children's play changes to become more socially and intellectually complex.

Active Learning: Students actively participate in motor skills, both fine and gross - to draw on their senses, movement experiences, acquired knowledge and physical strengths to engage in controlled and purposeful movement.

Oral Language: Oral language is crucial to a child's literacy development, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

Intervention Programs: Learning support is provided for students who need assistance in Literacy & Numeracy. Students are given opportunities to build skills and strategies in small groups.

- Support-a-Talker
- Support-a-Reader
- Multilit
- ELF
- Literacy Groups
- Writing Groups
- Numeracy Groups

Under 8's Week: Under 8's week at St. Francis Xavier is a special week that is set aside to celebrate and value the early childhood years and the amazing amount of learning that takes place in the Early Years Prep – Year 3. We celebrate the importance of being Under 8 Years Old. Some of the activities include: liturgy, display children's work, fun run, sausage sizzle lunch, free dress.

Jennifer Gray

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