COOLBINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

An Independent Public School

-Inspiring Growth-

Early Years of Schooling Handbook

2018

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Welcome to Coolbinia Primary School and in particular to our Early Learning Centre. This is an exciting time for you and your child as they embark on their journey into schooling. Together, you have many wonderful moments ahead of you to cherish, and possibly some challenging ones too, as you support your child at school.

The Early Years of schooling are vital. It is a pleasure to watch children learn as they happily explore, play and investigate in an environment that is both stimulating and motivating. At this age their minds are so open and inquisitive and they take such great pleasure in learning.
Attendance is critical for optimal learning. Please ensure your child arrives on time and attends every school day (unless they are ill). We strongly encourage your child to wear our Coolbinia School Uniform.

At Coolbinia Primary School we believe that fundamental to effective learning is a strong, positive partnership between school and families. We welcome your involvement in the school. We encourage you to become actively involved by volunteering to help out in the classroom, participating in school activities and decision-making groups such as the P & C and School Board.

At Coolbinia Primary School, our decisions are made with our students' wellbeing foremost in mind and with their best interests at heart. We place children first and we are deeply committed to providing your child with the very best possible start to their schooling.

The Early Years of Schooling Handbook is designed to provide you with information about our school as well as tips and ideas on how you can support your child in their first years of schooling.

Once again, I am delighted to welcome you and your child to our school. We look forward to working with both you and your child throughout the school year. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's educational program, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or a school leader. Our doors are always open and we welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

Jayne Conley

Jayne Conley
PRINCIPAL

OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD BELIEF STATEMENT

At Coolbinia Primary School, we strive to inspire growth. We aspire to ensure all children fulfil their potential to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident and creative individuals
- Active and informed citizens who value the environment we live in and respect all people who contribute to it

Coolbinia Primary School educators believe in a learning environment which incorporates the Early Years Learning Framework and the Western Australian Curriculum. This early phase of schooling establishes a positive beginning to school learning and ensures continuity and transition to learning. Our accountability and assessment practices link directly to curriculum planning and improvement at a school wide level.

We believe children develop:

A strong sense of identity

- Through play and exploration
- By interacting in a socially appropriate manner
- Through the provision of a warm and secure environment where they feel confident in making decisions, taking risks, expressing ideas and reflecting on their learning

A sense of wellbeing

- By feeling accepted, developing attachments and being able to explore, negotiate and build relationships with others
- By providing an environment that is safe, supportive and accepting
- Where the classroom environment is happy, friendly and engaging
- By encouraging family partnerships
- By fostering resilience, allowing them to persevere to become independent learners

Effective communication

- By contributing to class agreements, discussions and decision making
- By participating positively as part of a group and responding to others
- By sharing knowledge, skills and ideas with adults and their peers

Confidence and become involved learners

- By connecting and contributing to their world
- Through the provision of open-ended language rich activities
- With planned learning experiences which are stimulating and engaging
- When the learning is developed to match the diversity of children's needs, strengths and interests
- When provided with a balance of intentional and play based teaching practices

A connection to their world

- By providing opportunities which have a strong focus on sustainability and cultural awareness
- Through collaborative partnerships within the wider school community

MEET THE STAFF IN OUR COOLBINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-PRIMARY

Coolbinia Primary School prides itself on the relationships forged with families and community. This is achieved by ensuring a high level of effective communication and developing structures and agreements that support our school values. We appreciate diversity and are focused on meeting the needs of all children and their families.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of our staff in person or via email. Email is used to share information, to make appointments and celebrate success. We encourage you contact your son/daughter's teacher as your first point of communication as they know your child best in the school context. Jayne Conley, Principal and Debra Holland, Associate Principal are also available to speak with families. They have a strong classroom presence and endeavour to know all our students and monitor their progress.

We try to be a paperless school and rely heavily on our school website to circulate information. It is updated regularly and should be your first port of call if you are seeking any school based information. Our school website is: www.coolbiniaps.wa.edu.au

School Leaders

Jayne Conley
Principal
jayne.conley@education.wa.edu.au

Deb Holland
Associate Principal
Debra.holland@education.wa.edu.au

Teaching Staff

Karyn Platt
Kindergarten Teacher
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Sally Walsh
Pre-primary Teacher
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Cilla Hampton
Pre-primary Teacher
cilla.hampton@education.wa.edu.au

Specialist Teachers

Jo Bowyer
Specialist Teacher
Jo.bowyer@education.wa.edu.au

Education Assistants

Lorraine Barwick

Rahnae Hawkins

Robyn Browne

Tracy Blake

Sandra Wallis

We look forward to working with you and your child.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018

SEMESTER ONE

Term 1
Wednesday 31 January – Friday 13 April
Term 2
Tuesday 1 May – Friday 29 June

SEMESTER TWO

Term 3
Tuesday 17 July – Friday 21 September
Term 4
Tuesday 9 October – Thursday 13 December

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: 9444 3798

Email: coolbinia.ps@education.wa.edu.au

SMS Mobile for Absentees	0418 911 341
Camp Australia (Out of School Care)	1300 105 343
Coolbinia Primary School Website	www.coolbiniaps.wa.edu.au

SCHOOL HOURS

Administration office	8.00am – 4.00pm
Classroom doors open	8.25am
School commences	8.35am
Morning Recess	10.35am – 11.00am
Lunch	12.40pm – 1.20pm
Kindergarten and Pre-Primary students dismissed	2.45pm
All other classes dismissed	2.50pm

PAYMENT METHODS

For your convenience there are a variety of ways to make payments, including:

CASH – If paying by cash please ensure payment is enclosed in a sealed envelope labelled with your child's name, the amount enclosed and what the payment is for. Please give the envelope to the class teacher.

STUDENT ACCOUNT – Placing a sum of money into your child's school account will enable funds to be deducted as the need arises. This can be done at the school reception. All transactions are documented and a summary can be requested at reception.

EFTPOS – A fast and secure way of paying your school accounts using your cheques, savings or credit account. EFPTOS is available at the school reception.

DIRECT DEPOSIT – Our preferred method of payment is via direct deposit. You can make payment for your child/children directly in to the school account. Please use your child's surname and classroom as the reference.

Bank Details for direct deposit are: Coolbinia Primary School
BSB: 306 091 ACC: 415 694 3

PERMISSION SLIPS FOR INCURSIONS AND EXCURSIONS

It is essential you provide your teacher with permission slips for any upcoming events and make payments prior to the event to ensure your child's involvement. You are welcome to give permission via email to your child's teacher for incursions and excursions.

SAFETY BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

We strongly encourage parents to drop children off directly to their classroom in the morning and leave the school grounds promptly at the end of the day. Children are NOT permitted to play on the playground equipment before or after school. This is a school policy related to duty of care that is supported by the School Board.

ATTENDANCE

Kindergarten children will attend two consecutive days per week and every second Wednesday. We strongly encourage attendance in Kindergarten to ensure children continue to build upon their knowledge and skills sequentially and so that their social networks become predictable, supportive and positive. Regular attendance allows your child to maximise their opportunity to learn and to be a valued member of a stable class community. Please inform the school of your child's absence via **SMS** on **0418 911 341** or the classroom teacher by email or a written note.

Pre-Primary is your son/daughter's first compulsory year of schooling. Children are required to attend daily during the school term. The school must be informed if your child is absent via **SMS on 0418 911 341** or by emailing or providing a written note to the classroom teacher. An attendance check is completed by 9:30am each morning. If the school is uninformed of an absence by this time, you will receive an SMS from the school.

We strongly discourage holidays to be planned for and taken during school terms. Holidays are not considered an acceptable reason for absence. You will be informed in writing if your child's absences exceed reasonable expectations.

DELIVERING AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

Children should not arrive at school before 8:20am and are requested to please leave the school premises promptly after being dismissed at 2.50pm.

Please endeavor to deliver and collect your child on time to avoid distress. If you know you will be late to pick up your child at the end of the day, please phone the office (9444 3798) and a message will be forwarded on to your child's teacher. Please inform the teacher if someone other than a nominated care provider on your child's enrolment form will be collecting your child.

If you need to collect your child during school time, please visit the school reception, where you will be issued with a student release form (yellow slip). This is handed to your child's teacher when you pick them up from their classroom.

COOLBINIA OUT OF SCHOOL CARE (COSCA)

COSCA (managed by Camp Australia) operates Monday to Friday, **7.00am – 8.30am** and **2.45pm – 6.00pm**, during the school term.

To enroll and make bookings for 2018, please register online at Camp Australia's website **www.campaustralia.com.au** or phone on 1300 105 343.

Further information regarding COSCA is available on the Coolbinia Primary School Website. Please inform your child's teacher of the days you are using these services. COSCA staff deliver children in Kindergarten and Pre-primary to their classrooms in the mornings and a member of the teaching staff deliver children to the COSCA building after school.

CONTRIBUTIONS

All families are asked to pay the scheduled $60 contribution fee. You will see this fee itemised on your child's Booklist. This fee is set by the Department of Education and enables the school to purchase further resources and consumables to support your child's learning throughout the year. Kindergarten families are asked to pay their fees on enrolment.

CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS LIST

You will be provided with a Booklist prior to the commencement of Term One. This list can also be accessed on the school website. Please bring in **all** items on your child's first day of school. If you are having difficulties purchasing any of the items on your list please inform your child's teacher. Please label your items and clearly mark the box or bag that you bring your items in. You will be contacted by your classroom teacher if there are any outstanding items.

UNIFORMS

We strongly encourage all our students to wear the school uniform. The uniform shop is located behind the Kindergarten building and is open during school terms on the first Friday of the month from 8.15am to 8.45am. Dates are advertised on the school website.
Alternatively uniforms can be purchased via our online shop which is available on the school website. Deliveries to your child's classroom are made weekly.

In the best interests of your child's wellbeing, we have a no hat, no play policy. Hats can also be purchased from the uniform shop.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Please return your Enrolment Forms as soon as possible. All the details provided are confidential and will be accessed by education and administration staff only.

Please email your classroom teacher as well as the school office (*Coolbinia.ps@education.wa.edu.au*) or use the online form if there are changes to your child's personal details including:

- Address
- Telephone numbers
- Emergency contacts
- Health requirements
- Email

If your child has a severe medical condition, you will be required to complete a **Health Care Plan Form** (available from the School Reception). The plan will be made accessible to all staff to ensure the health and safety of your child.

GETTING INVOLVED

At Coolbinia Primary School, we welcome all parents to become actively involved in our school community.

Parents are invited to join our P&C. At the beginning of the year, the P&C will provide families with a list of school based activities that require ongoing support from the school community.

These include:

- Assisting with gardening
- Sporting events
- Classroom projects
- Canteen
- Uniforms
- Fundraising
- Cooking

Please consider getting involved. Alternatively, if you aspire to assist in developing and reviewing school policy we encourage you to elect to become a member of our School Board.

In Kindergarten and Pre-primary we also encourage you to become involved in our learning programmes and special events throughout the year. Teachers will inform you once all children have settled into a routine.

When volunteering at school, you are required to sign in at the School Reception prior to entering the classroom, or use the Sign In Book available in the classroom. Helpers will be provided with a Visitor's Badge. When you assist in the classroom, we ask you to please maintain confidentiality at all times.

OUR POLICIES AND AGREEMENTS

Guidelines, agreements and policies that guide our school can be found on the **Coolbinia Primary School Website**

By enrolling your child at Coolbinia Primary School, you are agreeing to follow the school's Community Agreements, created by parents and endorsed by the School Board. You are agreeing to:

- Demonstrate mutual respect for the role of the Teacher and the Parent in meeting the needs of each child
- Adopt a proactive approach to communication and building a sense of community
- Interact courteously and appropriately
- Be open to new learning and value positive contributions
- Approach problems calmly with the aim of finding a positive solution
- Maintain confidentiality
- Demonstrate positive support and advocacy for Coolbinia Primary School

CRUNCH 'N SIP POLICY – Crunch&Sip® break is a break for students to eat fruit or vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Coolbinia Primary School has implemented Crunch&Sip® to support students to establish healthy eating habits whilst at school.

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY – Coolbinia Primary School is an 'Allergy Aware' school. We endeavour to provide a safe and supportive environment for children who suffer from allergies. Parents of children with severe allergies or medical conditions that require support, are asked to complete a Medical Plan that can be accessed by all staff. This form is available from the School Reception We are 'nut aware' and ask that all families avoid packing food for school that contains nuts.

ATTENDANCE – Attendance is compulsory from Pre-primary to Year Six.

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES - Coolbinia Primary School values communication between home and school to ensure the best possible education for your child. Please read our communication strategies and agreements.

EMAIL PROTOCOL – Email by classroom teachers for information sharing, setting up appointments and celebrating success. If you wish to discuss your child's needs or any concerns you have, please set up an appointment with your child's classroom teacher. Teachers will endeavour to respond to your email within 48 hours.

PROMOTING HEALTH POLICY – Coolbinia Primary School is committed to creating an environment that promotes learning and actively teaches healthy eating and physical activity patterns for long term health.

INTERNET POLICY - Access to Internet services at Coolbinia Primary School is provided to support and extend learning activities and experiences. Parents and students are asked to sign an agreement to ensure sensible and safe use of internet resources.

IMAGE USE - Parent permission is required for use of images of your child.

USING SOCIAL MEDIA – We request you do not share images of other children when taken at school on Social Media.

OTHER POLICIES AND AGREEMENTS FOUND ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE INCLUDE:

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Dress Code
- Homework
- Behaviour Management
- Playground Procedures
- Religious Policy
- Emergency Response Plan
- Evacuation
- Fundraising Policy
- Students at Educational Risk
- School Leaders
- Classroom Placement
- Bullying Brochure
- Medical Alert Procedures

INFORMATION EVENING

At the beginning of Term One we hold a Parent Information Evening to introduce families to the staff and programmes at Coolbinia Primary School. We introduce key members of your school community and the role they play and you will meet our specialist staff who will explain their roles and learning programmes.

You will then be invited to your child's classroom where your teacher will provide further information about classroom procedures and agreements, routines, practices and what to expect in the year ahead. We encourage all families to attend to ensure you have a common understanding of expectations and to enable your teachers to answer any general enquiries. It is also the perfect opportunity for families to introduce themselves and get to know one another.

The provisional date for the information evening is **Wednesday, 8 February 2017 at 5.00pm**.

CLASSROOM PRACTICES

Birthdays – We enjoy taking part in your son/daughter's celebrations and will acknowledge their special days in the classroom. We ask parents not to bring in lollies, gifts, chocolate or cakes.

Toys/Jewellery – Children often like to bring in special personal items from home to show their friends. We ask parents to consider the distress that can be caused by items being lost or damaged and encourage children to keep their special items safe at home.

Laundry – Teachers will post a roster for families to volunteer to take home the laundry. Items may include hand towels, tea towels and art smocks.

Family help roster – The Kindergarten help roster, where we ask parents to volunteer as the class helper for a day will begin in Term Two. This provides Term One for children to settle into their routines and become familiar with their new learning environment.

Library – All Pre-primary and Kindergarten children will require a library bag. Children will borrow books from the school Resource Centre each week on their allocated day. Teachers will inform families of their library days once they have been allocated. Children must have a bag to borrow a book and are responsible for returning their books each week.

Home Reading – Pre-primary children will bring home "readers" as soon as possible. Before sending readers home we strongly encourage parents to attend one of our parent information sessions that will outline how the programmes work and strategies to support young readers. Parents will be given information about these sessions during the Parent Information Evening in Term One.

Swimming - Pre-primary children will participate in swimming lessons in Term Four at Terry Tyzack Aquatic Centre. Swimming is a compulsory component of our sport programme.

Pre-Primary On Entry Testing - All Pre-primary children will be involved in State-wide literacy and numeracy testing in the middle of Term One. Teachers will provide feedback to parents after testing is finalised.

WHAT TO BRING

- ✓ **A LARGE SCHOOL BAG** - Each child requires a roomy bag approximately 50 cm square, clearly named. This needs to be large enough to hold a lunch box, a hat, a jumper, a change of clothes (accidents happen), shoes and socks, a drink bottle and any work to be brought home each day.
- ✓ **WATER BOTTLE –** This is kept in the classroom so children have access to drinking water at all times. Please clearly label the bottle with your child's name.
- ✓ **CRUNCH 'N SIP –** Each session includes snack time, where fruit or raw vegetables are pre-cut and placed in a separate container to be eaten throughout the day. See our Crunch 'n Sip policy on the school website **Coolbinia Primary School Crunch & Sip Policy**
- ✓ **RECESS –** Children require a healthy snack for morning tea which is kept in their lunchbox. Initially you may like to label and or separate your child's recess from their lunch until they become familiar with our eating routine. Please, **do not** include nuts or nut based spreads, in your child's lunchbox. **Our school is Allergy Aware, with respect to students who suffer allergies to these products. Please see our Anaphylaxis Policy on the school website.** **Coolbinia Primary School Anaphylaxis Guidelines and Management Plan**
- ✓ **LUNCH -** Please clearly label all containers. Heating and cooking facilities are not available for children's lunches. Children may order lunch from the School Canteen. Please see our school website for the Canteen Menu. **Sustainability is a priority at Coolbinia Primary School and we strongly encourage a waste free lunch box.** Please limit disposable wrappings wherever possible. **Coolbinia Primary School Canteen**
- ✓ **CLOTHING** - We encourage all children to wear our school uniform. Please provide a spare set of labelled clothing including underwear in your child's bag at all times. Children who have an accident or are wet are changed into a spare set of clothing.
- ✓ **SHOES –** Children require appropriate shoes to participate in daily fitness activities. Shoes that slip off easily are unsafe. If your child is unable to tie their own laces we recommend shoes with Velcro straps. Crocs, thongs and boots can be unsafe and inhibit free movement during outdoor play. Sneakers and sandals are encouraged.
- ✓ **A BROAD BRIMMED HAT** – This is a compulsory item. A "No Hat, No Play" rule applies across the whole school (hats are available from the uniform shop).
- ✓ **SUNSCREEN –** We ask parents to apply sunscreen at home before school. Sunscreen is also available in classrooms.
- ✓ **A LIBRARY BAG** – Students need a library bag. These are available from the uniform shop.
- ✓ **PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS –** Booklist items should be purchased prior to starting school.

PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING

THE FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

It is of upmost importance to us that your child's first experience at school is a positive one. We have implemented a transitional period for Kindergarten children to ensure they feel safe and secure in their new environment. Children will attend half days in their first week and you will have been informed of their times prior to school commencing. Children will attend one morning and one afternoon session in their first week. By reducing the amount of children in each session teaching staff can take the time to develop and nurture relationships with both the children and their families. Children will have the time and space to become familiar with their classroom environment and peers. Children will begin their full day programme the following week.

Pre-primary children will commence a full time programme from the first day of term. You are invited to stay with your child until their classroom learning programme begins. This is an important time where children can share their learning with their family and feels safe and secure in their new learning environment. During this morning transition teachers are available to parents to pass on information or ask general questions.

On your first day, please bring in **all** items listed on the Booklist. Please include your child's name on the box or bag containing your items.

PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE

Childhood is a time of increasing independence. Independence contributes to the development of self-esteem, identity and wellbeing. Doing something "by yourself" produces a powerful sense of achievement and success. When children have opportunities to make choices, to attempt tasks for themselves, and to take on increasing responsibilities, their sense of themselves as competent members of society grows. Here are some tips to provide opportunities for your child to develop independence:

- Develop daily routines and encourage children to assist in tasks such as packing their school bag, making their breakfast and unpacking their school bag on arrival to school
- Allowing your child to have age appropriate responsibilities at home, for example; setting the dinner table, sweeping the floor, putting toys away, dressing themselves, putting shoes on, tying up shoelaces and making their breakfast
- Giving children opportunities to make their own choices such as selecting their own clothes, choosing between two tasks/activities
- Remembering their classroom belongings, for example; library bag, home reader, hat, water bottle and lunch box
- Encourage children to promote self-help skills in daily routine tasks, such as; going to the toilet, following their classroom agreements, dressing themselves, packing away and asking for help
- Provide opportunities for children to attempt tasks <u>before</u> offering your assistance

HEALTH SERVICES

Coolbinia Primary School has a range of professionals that provide services to maintain the health and wellbeing of children, including:

- A registered school nurse who makes visits to the school to carry out scheduled health checks. During the year our nurse will complete a health check for all Kindergarten children. Parents will be given a parent questionnaire and consent form to complete prior to the nurse's visit.
- Children will have access the Mount Lawley Dental Clinic. They begin their dental visits in Pre-primary and parents will be sent consent forms prior to their initial consultation.
- Our School Psychologist is at school one day a week and provides a number of services to support teachers and students in the school setting. A referral needs to be made through the SAER Leader of our school.

EARLY INTERVENTION

We strongly believe in early intervention to support the cognitive, social and physical development of all children. If there is a need to refer children to specialists e.g. Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Paediatrician or Psychologist, teachers will make an appointment with parents to discuss their concerns. We strongly encourage parents to act immediately on referrals to reduce the impact on your child's learning.

TRIPLE P PARENTING RESOURCES

Beginning school can occasionally be an overwhelming experience for young children and their families. As children grow older and are exposed to new experiences, their behaviour may shift and at times become challenging. Our School Nurse facilitates the Triple P Positive Parenting Programme throughout the year to provide practical strategies for managing behaviour and to assist in building strong healthy relationships.

MEDICATION

In accordance with Department of Education policy, staff are unable to administer medication without written consent. If your child requires medication, ideally carers should come to the school to give the correct dosage. If this is not possible, a 'Consent to Administer Medication' form should be completed should a staff member (who is not obliged), need to give medication. Children are **not allowed** to self-administer medication. For children who have ongoing medical needs, a 'Health Care Medical Action Plan' will need to be developed in consultation with relevant health specialists and then the plan will be approved by either Jayne Conley (Principal) or Debra Holland (Associate Principal) and made available to all staff in the school.

ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESS

If a child is hurt during the day or is feeling unwell, teaching staff will contact you or a designated name given to collect the child. You will receive a 'Medical Intervention Form' that will provide information regarding the incident and the treatment your child received whilst at school.

HEAD LICE

If you know that your son/daughter has head lice, please ensure that their hair is treated and eggs removed before returning to school. Please inform the class teacher so that other families can be alerted to check their son/daughter's hair. This will help in preventing the spread of head lice throughout the class. For more information please see: http://www.health.wa.gov.au/docreg/Education/Diseases/Communicable/Parasitic/HP0149_head_lice_FS.pdf

ALLERGIES

Coolbinia Primary School is an **ALLERGY AWARE** school. Several of our students have severe food allergies and we strongly encourage all families to support our endeavours to provide a safe environment by minimising the risk of allergic reactions. We would appreciate that foods containing nuts are not included in lunch boxes. These allergic reactions can be life threatening. Your support is greatly appreciated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For your information the following are the exclusion periods of common infectious diseases.

Chicken Pox	Exclude the child from school for at least 5 days after the rash appears. Re-admit 10 days from onset if well, or on presentation of a medical certificate that the child is no longer infectious
Measles	Exclude the child from school for four days after the onset of the rash. Re-admit on presentation of a medical certificate or 7 days from appearance of rash
Mumps	Exclude the child from school and inform teacher. Re-admit on presentation of a medical certificate 9 days from onset (if well)
Head Lice or Nits	Exclude the child from school at the end of the school day. Re-admit after treatment and no more signs of live lice.
Ringworm	Exclude the child from school until after treatment. Re-admit on medical certificate that the child is no longer infectious
Whooping Cough	Exclude the child from school for 21 days after the onset of cough or until 5 day course of antibiotics has been completed. Re-admit on medical certificate of freedom from infection
Cold Sores	Exclude the child from school while the lesion is weeping. Cover the lesion if possible.
Conjunctivitis	Exclude the child from school until discharge from eyes has ceased.

Please refer to the Education Department website or the Health Department website for any further information regarding diseases and treatment.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is a wealth of literature available on the **Education Department of WA website**. Providing information and strategies to help your support your child's learning from the early years through to high school. These are some links to information relevant to the early years:

Kindergarten – an overview

Hello Kindergarten!

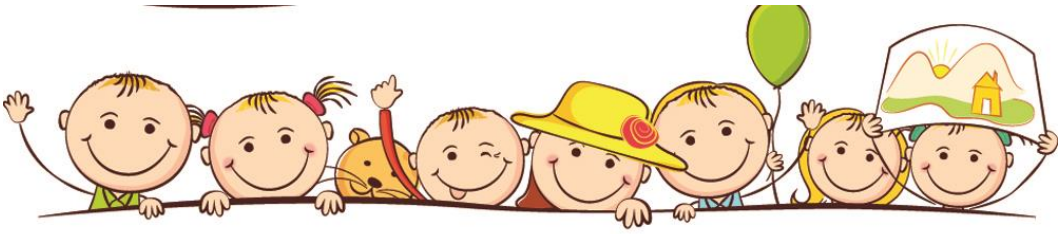
Numbers: Learning at home

Reading: Stages and why it is important

Science – at home in the garden

Writing and spelling: Ideas and factsheet

What Did You Do Today?

When children come home at the end of the day.
The question they're asked as they scurry to play is,
"Tell me what you did today?"
And the answer they give makes you sigh with dismay.
"Nothing, I did nothing today!"
Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks,
Or counted to ten, or sorted some rocks.
Maybe I painted a picture of red and blue
Or heard a story of a mouse that flew.
Maybe I watched a rabbit eat today,
Or went outside on the swings to play..
Maybe today was the very first time,
That my scissors followed a very straight line.
Maybe I sang a song from beginning to end,
Or played with a special brand new friend.
When you're in pre-school and your heart has wings
"Nothing" can mean so many things!!

- Author unknown