



Flying Start

Reception Transition Program

At St Peter's Woodlands we ensure all our beginning Reception children have a **FLYING START** to their formal schooling years.

About the Program

Our *Flying Start - Reception Transition Program* is a carefully considered series of visits that aim to ensure all children feel welcomed, comfortable and excited about their next steps into Reception.

Durham University recently conducted an assessment of over 40,000 children providing evidence that an effective first year at school remains with children for the entirety of their schooling.

We know that children who have a positive start to school are more likely to feel comfortable, relaxed and ready to learn. They feel good about themselves as learners and develop a sense of belonging to the school community.

At St Peter's Woodlands we call this a **FLYING START** in offering the extraordinary experience for our young learners.



Getting Started

The *Flying Start - Reception Transition Program* begins with new students and families to St Peter's Woodlands meeting the Head of Early Years for an Enrolment Conversation and tour of the Reception spaces around June in the year prior to their start.

Children within the Early Learning program at St Peter's Woodlands are already well known to staff, including the Head of Early Years, who oversees the pastoral care of children from 2 years of age until the completion of Year 2. There is a strong link between ELC staff and Reception teachers, providing continuity of care for children in their early years. This link ensures families feel connected and have trust in their child's education and experiences.





Program Outline

GETTING ON BOARD – One Session

To commence the program, children participate in one 'Getting On Board' session with a small group of children.

This experience is designed to be personal and provide extra care and attention to each child to ensure they feel secure. During this visit, children are shown around the Reception classroom, introduced to each other, explore some of the classroom resources, enjoy a story, and sing songs together.

TAKING OFF – Two Sessions

The next stage is for the children to attend two 'Taking Off' sessions which are held in larger class groups. All Reception classrooms are open and children are placed in a Reception room for each visit.

During these visits children meet a Reception teacher and various peers, enjoy a story and a follow up craft activity, as well as enjoy some activity time with the classroom resources.

SOARING – One Session

The 'Soaring' session is the final visit in the *Flying Start - Reception Transition Program*.

During this session, children will meet their new Reception teacher and class peers ready for commencement the following year. Children spend time getting to know each other and the teacher, explore their classroom and participate in an engaging learning experience, as well as play in the playground.

At St Peter's Woodlands we value partnerships with families and educators. We endeavour to build genuine relationships through regular and open communications.

Kindy and ELC visits

During August and September, the Head of Early Years contacts the Kindergartens or ELCs of children enrolled to enter Reception at St Peter's Woodlands. The purpose of this conversation is to learn more about the individual child's development. The information is shared with the child's new Reception teacher along with notes from the Getting to Know You visit and any further enrolment information.

Class placements

During the *Flying Start - Reception Transition Program*, teachers have opportunities to get to know each child. This enables teachers to observe positive friendships and children's areas of interests. As a result, teachers take their observations into account when making decisions around the best placement of children in class groups. For children, the opportunity to mix in

different groups provides space to rekindle past friendships or initiate new ones, and find likeminded peers to bond with.

Getting to Know You visit

Each child is invited to attend a 'Getting to Know Your Child' meeting with their teacher just prior to Reception children starting school. During this meeting children will work with a teacher to complete various assessments and activities, which will provide essential information on early identification of learning needs so that intervention support can be provided as needed.

Rest days

To ensure children continue to thrive in their new school setting we encourage a day of rest for the first 5 weeks of Reception. We have witnessed the benefits for children having a rest for a

full day in the middle of the week. Rested children are more successful in regulating their emotions, giving focus and attention to their learning, maintaining positive relationships with their peers and staying healthy.

We offer a non-curriculum day at school for those families who are unable to keep their child at home and require care on these rest days.

Connect with other parents

During the transition visits there are opportunities to meet with other parents. We invite parents to stay during the visits, enjoy a coffee and mingle to get to know staff and other parents.

