

Early Learning Centre

SPW
early
learners

A place where learning is an adventure
and curiosity comes to life.



**St Peter's
Woodlands**

The difference is extraordinary.

Early Learning Centre

St Peter's Woodlands Early Learning Centre aims to provide an extraordinary education through a welcoming, nurturing environment full of discovery and joy for all.

An outstanding long-day care education for children aged 2 - 5 years.

Hours of Operation

7.30am – 6.00pm Monday-Friday

49 weeks a year (closed for 3 weeks over Christmas)



Centre Structure

Age	Min Attendance	Max Children Per Day	Ratio Educator/ Child	ELC Program	Room Name
2 Years of Age	1 day a week	10	1:5	First Steps	Torrens Room
2 Years of Age	1 day a week	15	1:5	First Steps	Ramsgate Room
3 Years of Age	2 days a week	18	1:10	Emerging Learners	Byron Room
3 Years of Age	2 days a week	20	1:10	Emerging Learners	Partridge Room
4 Years of Age	3 days a week	22	1:11	Preschool	Hastings Room
4 Years of Age	3 days a week	22	1:11	Preschool	Moseley Room
4 Years of Age	3 days a week	22	1:11	Preschool	Colley Room

Transitions to Programs

12 months is a long time in young children's lives and we know that children grow and develop at different rates. Therefore we offer 2 intake points for children to move to the next program when they are ready.

- First intake is in January for children born between September and April
- Second intake is in July for children born between May and August

In addition to the above criteria, educators and families consult to discuss the best possible placement for their child as they progress through the ELC.

Programs



Each program builds upon individual children's natural growth in the following areas. Physical, Social, Emotional, Cognitive and Language development.

First Steps

(children who turn 2)

The First Steps program is a unique, highly supported program for our youngest children. Priority is given to ensuring all children feel safe and secure in their learning environment. This is achieved through nurturing relationships with each child and their family. Children thrive in this consistent, inspiring space, learning how to be part of a small group and belong to a community of learners. Language development is significant in this program with children authentically expressing their needs and thoughts as well as listening to others and following language instruction. The joy of singing, reading and playing is evident every day.

Emerging Learners

(Children who turn 3)

Our aim for the children in the Emerging Learners program is to begin to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people from 3 years of age. Children express their own areas of interests and are encouraged by educators to question and inquire in to the world around them through active discoveries. Children develop independence and confidence in our Emerging Learners program. They embrace all learning experiences with enthusiasm including gross and fine motor activities, playful alphabet and number games, role playing with their peer as well as whole class group time experiences.

Preschool

(Children who turn 4)

Significant growth is observed in our Preschool children throughout the year. We begin formally teaching daily phonological awareness which results in children successfully hearing sounds in words and accurately replicating sounds in their speech. Children begin to explore representations of print with many children proudly mastering writing their name. We recognise all children develop at different rates and support each child on their individual learning journey. The Preschool program includes a specialised movement program and lots of time building spatial awareness and physical skills through music and dance. The Preschool program broadens the learning experiences to embrace specialist school teachers and facilities as well as connection to our local area through excursions.

From our First Steps to Preschool teachers and educators plan experiences that ensure children continue to achieve the following five outcomes from the Early Years Learning Framework

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

Engaging in play is integral, underpinning all learning experiences

Kindergarten, Child Care and Early Learning Centres, what is the difference between them?

Early Learning Centres are dedicated to delivering an outstanding educational program as well as long day care options.

An Early Learning Centre is able to provide an educational environment that is best suited to each child. Unlike Kindergartens, Early Learning Centres can offer an additional year in our Preschool rooms if it is in children's best interests to delay their Reception start. It is important to recognise that each stage in children's development is significant and children need time at each point to learn, grow and master skills and understanding. The greatest gift we can give children is the gift of time.

SPW Early Learning Centre provides a comprehensive educational learning program during the core day (8.30am-3.30pm). We have 3 qualified Early Childhood teachers delivering the educational outcomes for each child in our three Preschool Rooms.

The ELC Director provides educational direction in the First Steps and Emerging Learners programs with Lead Educators collaborating and implementing a carefully considered daily program for each child.

A typical day

(times vary in each program)

7.30	ELC opens and Before Core Day care begins
8.30	Core Day learning begins - socialisation, group time, intentional teaching
10.00	morning snack provided by ELC
10.30	Core Day learning - student led inquiry, small group focus learning
12.30	Lunch provided by families
1.00	sleep, rest, mindful relaxation
1.45	Core Day learning - student led inquiry, group time, intentional teaching
3.30	End of Core Day, start of After Core Day
4.00	After Core Day snack provided by ELC
6.00	ELC closes

What makes SPW Early Learning Centre extraordinary?

- We belong to a large school community and are a treasured beginning of a St Peter's Woodlands educational journey with approx. 90% of children continuing their education from ELC to R-6.
- ELC children access all St Peter's Woodlands facilities including the Gym, Chapel, Music rooms, Media room and all the beautiful grounds.
- Families can choose if they wish to send their children to ELC during the school holidays. If families wish to have a break during these times they will not be charged. Alternatively, families have the option of enrolling their child for the same days and hours for 49 weeks a year.
- Passionate, knowledgeable, long serving staff who love being with children
- Specialised ELC Programs including
 - **Early Years Learning Framework** - the National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care.
 - **Let's Decode and Phonological Awareness** - daily sequential and systematic explicit teaching of spoken sounds.
 - **Kimochis** - a social-emotional curriculum that using soft toy characters to teach children about emotions and how to communicate their feelings with others.
 - **Move to Connect** - the Move to Connect movement program is a simple, flexible sensory motor program, based on the natural movements of babies and toddlers
 - **Laughter Yoga** - a program based on wellbeing, combining laughter, simple movements and breathing exercises

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