



**ACT**  
Government

Education and Training



Turner School

## Term 1, 2021 - Turner Preschool Term Letter

### *Preschool Staff*

*Liga Ailte and Annie Rebetzke; Sofia Ritman and Trina Meredith*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Turner Preschool and welcome to the Turner Community! Our preschool groups are named Munnagayis, Gulambanys and Gudgauars. These are words from the Ngunawal language, the Indigenous people who were the first inhabitants of this land, and mean 'community' and 'children'. Together this contains the essence of what we are striving to create at Turner Preschool: children coming together in our community and a vibrant, inclusive and inquiring community that works together to achieve great things.

### **Early Years Learning Framework**

At Turner Preschool we provide a play-based program where children have the opportunity to engage in sustained and meaningful learning experiences in open ended, rich environments. The program is designed using the *Being, Belonging and Becoming: Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF)* which focuses on developing children's learning under five broad outcomes;

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

Copies of the EYLF are available at the preschool or online. You will see reference to this document in the preschool program, reflections and the children's learning portfolios.

### **Inquiry**

Turner School uses an approach to learning where units of inquiry are developed around 'big ideas' in order to develop deep understanding of key concepts. The preschool unit of planned inquiry this term is *Who Am I?*. Through group discussions, individual and whole group artwork, games and stories, we will be inquiring into the nature of the self, our beliefs and values and what responsibilities we have for ourselves and others. We will be exploring the similarities and differences between us and what makes us unique.

This learning will also used to set up a beginning understanding of the learner assets that are central to Turner School. In Term 1, our focus is on learning to be Self Managers. For example, children will learn daily preschool routines, and will be encouraged to be responsible for their own belongings as well as the shared equipment. This develops independence as they learn how to set up and pack up for themselves. They will reflect upon their learning both in an informal context as they self assess their learning and also in more formal situations such as sharing their learning with their peers in a group situation. They will also be given opportunities to think and explore how their actions affect others.

Within the inquiry based preschool learning environment children also engage in learning opportunities that are based on individual children's interests and learning needs. When planning for learning we use observation and knowledge of children's interests and learning needs to plan authentic, meaningful and inclusive learning opportunities that support children's real world experiences. These may arise as we discover interesting facts when we are reading, exploring the indoor and outdoor spaces and when the children engage in activities outside of preschool, which they share with their peers.

### **Literacy**

Developmentally, preschool is considered to be one of the most significant periods for the development of oral language, motor skills and cognition. Children's vocabularies are growing on a daily basis and we hear sentences becoming longer and more complex. We will be reading and discussing quality literature and using props and puppets to retell and sequence stories. The children will also be developing their oral language and awareness of sounds in words by playing simple games during group time, singing songs and learning chants. All groups will also have many opportunities to recognise and write their own names and develop their representations of ideas through pictures, paintings and writing symbols.

### **Numeracy**

Numeracy is all around us and is explored daily, as planned learning experiences and exciting daily discoveries. Colours, shapes, sorting and sequencing will be one focus this term. Knowledge of colours will be investigated by the exploration of colours and colour mixing using paint, cellophane and other mediums. Through board games, puzzles, artwork, box construction, manipulatives and group activities, children will begin to identify simple and some complex shapes and recognise their attributes such as how many sides and corners they have. They will learn to sort objects using different attributes and sequence objects to develop simple and complex patterns. Numeracy play is evident in pretend play, block play, outdoor play and science play - for example, peg number boards, counting bears, car garages, shopping and home corner, playdough, books and rhymes, puzzles and manipulatives all contain numeracy concepts.

### **Collaborative partnerships**

For those of you who are new to the school, we are keen to work in partnership with you to become a part of the Turner School community, starting in preschool. We value opportunities for all families to become involved and there will be many occasions throughout the year for you to make a contribution. You may consider being part of the school P&C, coming along to the Ukelele group on Wednesday mornings, Coffee Chats to meet Allison our Principal, becoming part of a working bee to improve our outdoor space, supporting us on excursions and participating in our learning journeys, concerts and casual get-togethers.

We are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to working with you to support your children. Please contact us at any time throughout the year to discuss any issues of concern or simply to 'touch base'.

Kind regards,

Sofia Ritman and Trina Meredith  
Liga Ailte and Annie Rebetzke

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