

Chiselhurst

PROSPECTUS

'A magical, special place for the hearts and minds of young children'



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Mission Statement

- Chiselhurst values each child's strength and recognises individual styles of learning
- Chiselhurst promotes learning, caring relationships and positive self-concept
- Chiselhurst is physically and emotionally safe for all
- Chiselhurst offers all children a beautiful environment for playful learning and discovery

WHY CHISELHURST?

At Chiselhurst we foster a "culture of respect" - respect for each other and respect and care for the environment. We believe children grow and thrive in a context of close dependable relationships that provide love and nurturance, security, responsive interactions and encouragement for exploration.

Chiselhurst allows children to be children, and to enjoy being a child, and the smiles on the children's faces speak a thousand words.

Chiselhurst is a place of creativity and inspiration, where we focus on preparing children for the world of the future, planting the seed for life-long learning.

What is special and unique about the Chiselhurst approach?

All parents want the best in life for their children, and quite correctly see the early learning years as crucial to later school success.

Many parents are pressured today to look to earlier and earlier formal schooling, the argument being that the earlier children start the formal academic schooling process, the more likely they are to succeed. Early childhood research does not support this. We would be happy to show you this research.

Small children need to develop self-confidence, learn to negotiate, communicate and develop self control before attempting to master the many tasks required of them at school.

Without these, how will they be able to negotiate the playground and all its potential social pitfalls? Be able to learn that new concept in numeracy, or make that new friend that allows them to feel good about themselves?

In reality, when children are very young, the variation between them reflects the **stage** they are at **not the age** they have attained.

When a child has reached the developmental stage to learn to read and write, it can be an easy and enjoyable process. However, if they are not developmentally ready for it and one tries to force the issue with rote learning, not only will they not succeed, but

A child has to be developmentally, emotionally, cognitively and socially ready for school.

you run the risk of doing irreparable harm by damaging the fragile self-esteem of that young child by introducing the fear of failure very early on.

Children develop at very different rates in the early years, and with this in mind, we work with each child as an individual, getting to know their strengths and weaknesses.

We focus closely on their socio-emotional, physical **and** cognitive development, through each developmental stage, developing skills and steadily preparing them for life.

The Chiselhurst Program

There is a substantive body of research supporting this, and it is here at Chiselhurst that you will see a **child-centered play-based program** working to its full potential.

At Chiselhurst, we give the children the opportunity to explore their own world **within a stimulating environment**, which incorporates both quiet and active areas. Our **outdoor area** is like an 'outdoor room' where music, art and dramatic play can occur equally as much as **indoors** and we offer opportunities for children to learn in their own preferred styles. The spontaneity of children creates opportunities for 'teachable moments' during the day - catching such moments creates adaptability and

"A child's work is play; it is the way children find out about the world they live in, through their interactions with the environment and the people in it."

encourages decision-making skills. Also it provides opportunities for discussion with more capable peers and adults.

We attempt to develop the children's imaginations through the open-ended materials we provide, which the children can use for their own purposes. Whenever possible we facilitate the creative process of an interest to continue to its completion over days, or if necessary, weeks.

We allow for **long uninterrupted periods of play** that are vital in allowing children opportunities to establish roles, create their preferred play environments, establish rules and enact their play.

The mastery of skills is learned concurrently with the children's development of an appropriate vocabulary and spoken word. A rich vocabulary enriches the child's experience.

The philosophy we thus follow, allows the children to learn and develop in a safe, secure, happy environment, and is structured to ensure all aspects of the individual child's development is fostered.

We work to ensure they can make friends, know how to handle conflict, and feel good about themselves, while learning about science, the world of numbers and the joy of reading and literacy.

Curriculum

Within our curriculum gradual changes are made as children grow and develop. These changes occur in our management of time, space and resources. During the first two weeks, the curriculum is highly regulated and highly supported. Children attend for shorter periods and are also supported

by an adult who is very familiar to them within a smaller group of peers.

As the year progresses the curriculum develops, and the children are encouraged to make decisions for themselves, but we continually nurture firm behavioral guidelines to ensure that the 'culture of respect' is reinforced.

We work in close partnership with parents, valuing their input into our understanding of their child. We love parents to stay, if possible, and assist in supporting children's thinking.

The outcome we work towards is a happy inquiring child who is able to confidently take that big step into formal schooling and thrive.

C&K Affiliated

Chiselhurst is an affiliate of C&K (formerly the Crèche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland). Established in 1907, C&K is a voluntary, non-profit, community organisation that actively promotes quality early childhood care and education, as too is Chiselhurst. Through this affiliation, Chiselhurst receives government funding.

Ms. Jacuqi Ruhle, C&K Early Childhood Advisor is most happy to discuss any queries parents may have.

Staff

Chiselhurst has one full time and two part time Early Childhood Education Teachers : Director, Rosemarie Dawes Dip.Ed., B.Ed. and Teachers Karen Reid, B. Ed & Sarah Bryce, B. Ed. The qualified Early Childhood Assistants alternate between classes on a yearly basis. Chiselhurst often supports children with special needs. A special needs assistant works individually with these children and also the needs of other children in the group.

Waiting List Policy

- A separate waiting list is maintained for each year for children turning 4 years of age by 30th June of the year of attendance in a Pre Prep program.
- No waiting list priority will be given to children for specific reasons, such as children of committee persons, or siblings of children already in attendance at the centre
- Names taken for enrolment will be strictly in accordance with the child's date of placement on the waiting list.
- Where vacancies exist and no children remain on the waitlist the centre may enrol a child from next year's waitlist providing the child has turned 3 years of age by 31st December.
- Offers commence after our annual open day of the year prior to Pre Prep entry.

A child's name is considered to be registered on the waiting list when the parent has paid the waiting list fee and received a receipt

Special Events

Chiselhurst hosts a number of special events during the year, and we invite you to attend these to become acquainted with the Chiselhurst philosophy and program.

Events for 2011

Parent Information Night

To be held on **Tuesday 10th May, 2011 at 7:30pm.**

This evening will explain to you our Chiselhurst philosophy and how we are able to support your children during these early and critical years.

Open Day

To be held on **Wednesday 11th May, 2011 between 9:30 and 11:30am.** Come and experience first hand all that Chiselhurst has to offer. Meet our friendly staff and talk to some of our parents.

'2011 Program Times

Pre—Prep: There will be four groups catering for up to 22 children in each group. on a five day fortnight basis, 8.45 am to 2.45 pm (2 groups attend the beginning of the week & 2 attend the end of the week).

2008 onwards

Chiselhurst will not be offering a preparatory program; this program will be available through catholic, private and all state schools. In most instances, we will provide one year of pre-prep education.

- To be eligible, children will need to turn four years of age by 30th June in the year they attend.
- This is the year immediately prior to the preparatory year.
- In the event that there are no children on the current year's waitlist, children from the next year's waitlist will be taken in order of placement on the waiting list. Provided that the next child has turned three year's of age by the 31st December.

There are four terms per year with the timetable of holidays following that of the state schools. The last day of each semester is a pupil free day.

You are most welcome to visit Chiselhurst at any time.
Your enquiry is always welcome.

Fees Information

Accounts are issued and fees are payable in advance. The preferred methods of payment are BPay and cheque. Charges may apply for late fees.

Chiselhurst is a provider of Registered Care and you may be eligible for a rebate through the Family Assistance Office.

2011 Fee Schedule

Waiting List Application	\$30 / child
Enrolment Deposit	\$100 / child
Pre-Prep	\$677/ term
Excursion/Entertainment Levy	\$150 / year
Maintenance Levy	\$120 / year
Capital levy	\$120 / year

Special Needs

Are you aware of any additional support that your child may require during his/her enrolment at Chiselhurst?

If, for any reason, your child may need special assistance e.g. special facilities, special equipment or additional support staff, please notify Chiselhurst as soon as possible so that we may plan for facilities or apply for funding, to best meet the needs of your child. This information is requested to assist Chiselhurst in long term planning for the successful inclusion of children with special needs. The information obtained will not be used to deny or delay enrolment of your child.

Starting the Preparatory Year

The following chart will show when children will start the prep year and year 1.

Birth date	Prep	Year 1
1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006	2011	2012
1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007	2012	2013
1 July 2007—30 June 2008	2013	2014
1 July 2008—30 June 2009	2014	2015
1 July 2009—30 June 2010	2015	2016

Further information is available on the Department of Education website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf/prep.html>

Completing the Waiting List Application

- 1 Please read this prospectus carefully and file for your records.
- 2 A separate Waiting List Application form must be completed and forwarded for each child.
- 3 The Waiting List Application form must be forwarded with the prescribed fee of \$30.00, which is non-refundable.
- 4 Position on the waiting list for a particular year shall be in numerical order, following receipt of the prescribed fee.
- 5 Acceptance of the Waiting List Application form does not guarantee a position for your child, but places him/her on the

waiting list for that particular year.

- 6 All cheques should be made payable to:
Chiselhurst Preschool & Kindergarten Assoc Inc
- 7 The Association shall forward all correspondence to the address nominated on the Waiting List Application form.
- 8 The Association shall not accept responsibility for mail delivered to an address that is not current. Unanswered correspondence may prejudice your child's position on the waiting list. Please advise any changes of address in writing.
- 9 All correspondence to the Association should be forwarded to:
*The Enrolments Secretary
Chiselhurst Preschool & Kindergarten Assoc Inc
PO Box 134
Toowoomba Qld 4350*

Notes

