

## **School STaRT (Comprehensive)**

### **Preparation for School Program**

The preparation for school program will involve:

1. School readiness assessment of the child's skills in their childcare/preschool setting (approx 2 visits)
2. Developing an Individual School Preparation Plan (ISPP) to develop critical school readiness skills
3. Implementing the ISPP in the childcare/preschool setting
4. Training staff to continue the program
5. Monitoring staff implementation
6. Monitoring/updating the program

The program will be developed and established by a trained special education teacher.

Assessment will involve:

1. Observation of the child within the childcare/preschool environment to assess:
  - Classroom skills including
    - Sitting in small group
    - Sitting in a large group
    - Attending 1:1
    - Attending in a small group
    - Attending in a large group
    - Following directions
    - Following routines
    - Early worksheet skills
  - Social skills including
    - Interaction with peers
    - Interaction with adults
  - Self help skills/independence including
    - Toileting
    - Eating
    - Drinking
    - Looking after belongings
    - Pack away
  - Functional communication including
    - Communicating needs
    - Social communication

## School STaRT (continued)

2. Testing early academic skills including
  - Fine motor skills
    - Handwriting
    - Cutting/pasting
    - Computer
  - Phonemic awareness skills
  - Early number skills

Developing an Individual School Preparation Plan (ISPP):

An ISPP will be developed by the Special Education teacher following a detailed school readiness assessment. This assessment is based on research conducted by the STaR Program Manager into those skills critical for successful school placement. The plan will detail objectives, in each of the areas assessed, to develop the child's school readiness skills. It will also detail the strategies for developing these skills within the childcare/preschool setting. Families will be provided with a copy of this plan.

Implementation of the program:

The ISPP will be implemented within the childcare/preschool setting therefore the centre will need to agree to the child receiving the program. The ISPP will consist of general objectives for school survival, e.g attending, listening etc. and specific objectives e.g. early academic skills. Centre staff will be trained in implementing those program objectives which can be incorporated into the daily routine of the centre e.g. some classroom skills, social skills, self-help skills, communication skills. These objectives may be implemented each time the child attends the centre.

The early academic skills will need specific teaching sessions. These sessions will be approximately 30 - 40 minutes and will be delivered weekly by the STaR Special Education teacher in the childcare classroom in a 1:1 or small group setting. Where possible, centre staff may also be trained to continue this program.

Monitoring and assessment:

The Special Education teacher will monitor implementation of the program and development of the child's skills. All program objectives will be assessed frequently and the ISPP revised as necessary.

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**Cost:** \$1089 per 10 week program

It is recommended that the child will be better prepared for school if they participate in at least two ten week blocks (if not more) before commencing school. The program should commence by April if possible.

It is also recommended that the child participates in supported school visits through the School Orientation Program before commencing school.

**For information contact:**

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