What will my child learn in the Preparatory Year?

The learning experiences in the Preparatory Year will help your child to:
- take on responsibilities
- become more independent
- respect other people
- co-operate with others
- make sensible choices about their health and safety
- develop their physical skills
- learn about their environment
- develop their oral language
- develop their early mathematical understandings
- learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- use their imagination and creativity
- develop their early literacy understandings.

What will I see my child doing?

Your child will be:
- investigating interests
- making choices
- talking with teachers and other children
- designing and making things
- singing, dancing and painting
- listening to stories
- playing games indoors and outdoors
- climbing, balancing, jumping
- planning and sharing in make-believe play
- using computers to draw pictures, make signs, play games and find out about the world
- taking part in everyday experiences like gardening, cooking and tidying up
- writing and copying signs during their play
- learning about size, shape, weight and measurement as they construct things indoors and outdoors.

How will this help my child when they get into Year 1?

The Preparatory Year continues on from your child’s learning at home and at kindergarten, child care and preschool.

The curriculum in the Preparatory Year is designed to provide the foundation that children need for success in later schooling. International research has identified several factors that are connected with success at school. These are:
- independence
- social learning
- health and physical development
- language development
- early literacy and numeracy understandings
- ability to think and solve problems
- imagination and creativity
- a positive approach to learning.

The Year 1 curriculum builds on the curriculum in the Preparatory Year.
How can I help my child?

- Share information about your child with the teacher. This information is always confidential.
- Chat with your child about what they’re doing at school.
- Visit the classroom for a brief chat or to take part in daily activities and/or special events.
- Encourage your child to experiment with a range of materials and equipment.
- Encourage your child to explore different ways to organise areas (for example, their bedroom, play area, cubby).
- Read together and talk about a range of everyday items such as signs, notices, letters, catalogues, magazines, TV guides, food packaging and bills.
- Read and talk frequently about storybooks, factual books and rhymes.
- Make available a variety of containers and materials for measuring, such as water, grain and sand.
- Involve your child in family activities that investigate mathematical ideas — such as cooking, setting the table, matching socks, sharing a meal.
- Provide ‘junk’ materials for drawing, making patterns, and building things.

How can I get involved?

Gilston State School recognises the vital role of parents in their child's education. There are many opportunities for you to participate in your child’s learning.

Contact your school for suggestions on how to become involved in the school and your child’s experiences in the Preparatory Year program.

See the QSA website at www.qsa.qld.edu.au to view the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines.

Gilston State School

Learning in the Preparatory Year

In 2003, the Queensland Government decided to introduce a Preparatory Year of full-time schooling for children aged five by June 30. Ninety-six schools were part of the phase in the Preparatory Year in 2005. From 2007, the Preparatory Year was universally available.

International research shows the benefits of full-time quality programs before children start Year 1. This research also shows that children who are older generally do better than their younger peers when they start formal schooling.

In 2012 English, Maths and Science will be drawn from the Australian Curriculum. The remaining subjects will be guided by the Early Years Curriculum adopted by Education Queensland.