

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small green seedling with several leaves, growing out of dark brown soil. The hand is wearing a purple sleeve with white polka dots. The background is dark and out of focus.

Embracing OUR FUTURE

MISSION AUSTRALIA

Early Learning



maearlylearning.com.au





About Mission Australia Early Learning

Early childhood is a time of great discovery and growth when the foundations for life and a love of learning are formed. This is why our centres are designed to be stimulating, natural environments that foster a sense of wellbeing, wonder and belonging.

Our dedicated educators work closely with families to provide a caring, fun and creative place for children to develop lifelong skills and a positive attitude towards learning that will remain with them throughout their lifetime. Importantly, our centres are inclusive and reflect the diversity of the communities children are an important part of – as well as the individuality of each child.

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Our unique approach

Learning begins at birth, and a child's learning and development at each stage of life forms the foundation for the next. During the first five years, we know that children experience more rapid brain development and acquire more skills and knowledge than in any other period in their lives. It is for this reason that we at Mission Australia Early Learning so passionately believe in the importance of investing in these formative years.

We feel privileged to be able to work with families and local communities to create safe and nurturing environments where children's emotional, social, and physical needs are met in order that they flourish and grow.

By instilling a love of learning now, and into their future, we're helping Australia's youngest citizens reach their full potential.

Education

With a model that has been shaped by over 150 years of working alongside mums, dads and families, Mission Australia Early Learning not only receives some of the highest rankings and recognition in Australia, we are perfectly placed to provide a learning environment that gives each child the best chance of a brighter future.

Nutrition

Of course, you can't have a healthy mind without healthy body. So 'nutrition' is the third fundamental aspect to our method. At every one of our centres, we collaborate with expert chefs and nutritionists to provide meals with the energy and nutrients they need in an enjoyable way. Food that they will feel good about and, equally importantly, their parents will too.

How you can help your child settle into childcare:

- 1. Prepare them** in advance by talking positively about child care – what they are going to take and what they are going to do. If you are positive and enthusiastic, this will have positive effects on your child. Please discuss visits and orientation with the Centre Manager. Centre visits help children begin to feel comfortable in the new surrounds.
- 2. When it's time to leave – leave quickly.** By all means stay with your child for as long as you want, but once you prepare to leave, say goodbye and go. Even when a child knows about "coming back", the moment of parting can still be sad.
- 3. Always say goodbye.** Even if your child is distressed, to slip away breaks down trust. If your child is crying or clings, prolonging the goodbye will only make it harder for yourself and your child.



Community

As the word implies, it's all about our focus on ensuring that our centres are genuinely integrated into their local area, meeting local needs and supporting local parents. Not to mention, fostering a stronger community spirit. After all, we share the belief that it 'takes a village to raise a child'.

Together, these four pillars inform every decision we make and every action we take in caring for children in communities across Australia.

We apply them consistently and in unison to form an approach aimed at enabling each and every child in our care, the best possible chance of achieving their full potential.

Because, as an organisation that is more familiar than most with the concerns of mums, dads, communities and society as a whole, we appreciate that it's never just one child that we're caring for and nurturing... rather, with each little one attending one of our centres around Australia, we're **embracing our future.**

Environment

Completing our unique approach is what we call 'environment'. It's based on our long-standing conviction that grass, trees and sunshine, rather than walls, make for the best learning experiences. In short, we always strive to nurture in our nature, as much as possible.

So, every MAEL centre features an outdoor area to immerse children in the magic of the natural world, as they learn, play, interact and develop. It's also why we have an ongoing 'greening project', intended to constantly improve and optimise the inherited outdoor environments of our centres, for the benefit of the children.

4.

Use regular set phrases for when it's time to go. For example, "Mummy/daddy is going now. I will be back after rest time."

5.

If your children show fear, accept that fear. It may not seem reasonable to you, but you are not the one who is feeling it. Please ensure that you acknowledge their sadness, but reassure them they will be fine and confirm when you will return.

Tip:

If you have any concerns about settling your child into the Centre please do not hesitate to talk to the Centre Manager and educators. We have many strategies we can work through with you. Call the centre at any time during the day to discuss your child's day. The educators will document in writing and by photos of your child's first day.



A curriculum for life

Mission Australia Early Learning values educators who are committed to the highest quality education and care for children.

The planning of our programs for the education and care of children attending Mission Australia Early Learning is based on the principles and practices of the National Early Years Learning Framework.

These are centred on the values of:

- secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
- partnerships
- high expectations and equity
- respect for diversity and ongoing learning and reflective practices

Our educators embrace all aspects of the Framework and work together with families to construct curriculum by engaging families in planning and assessment, transitions and ongoing two-way sharing of information. Our programs value working in partnership with families and this reflects the critical importance of children's belonging, their attachment within the family and acknowledging the diversity of family life.

Educators engage in quality interactions with children that are meaningful and extend children's interests and learning. Through play based, open ended experiences; children are empowered to enjoy the best possible start in education and achieve positive outcomes. We have developed a new curriculum that focuses on the importance of children learning in a natural environment and giving them a great start to their learning that sets them up for life.

To find your nearest centre visit
maearlylearning.com.au

What to bring

Children should wear clothes that they are comfortable in and that do not restrict their ability to play and participate in activities at the centre. Try to make clothing appropriate for the weather conditions forecast for the day (including a hat); packing a change of clothes and a spare jumper in winter is highly recommended. It's also good to remember that when children come home messy, it means they've explored and learnt during their day – they don't mean to make clothes dirty on purpose.

About Mission Australia

Independence is something we yearn for from our earliest age.

But if there's one thing as certain in life as our desire for independence, it's that it rarely turns out as planned. Life's complicated.

Over the past 150 years Mission Australia has learnt the reasons behind a loss of independence are different for every individual. Similarly, the paths to regaining it are complicated and varied.

This informs the way we work. We offer a wide range of solutions and apply them over the long term to help people secure jobs, receive an education, find housing and develop life skills.

Different approaches, often applied in unison, combined with Christian values and delivered by a nationwide team of over 3,500. Alongside governments, our corporate partners and everyday Australians who provide their generous support.

But importantly, with a single objective – to stand together with Australians in need, until they can stand for themselves.

MISSION
AUSTRALIA | together
we stand

