



## Reception Enrolment Policy

### **Crossways Lutheran School will have the following intakes for Reception in 2016:**

THREE intakes scaffolded throughout the year:	Birthday dates before
Beginning Term 1 Beginning Term 2 Beginning Term 3 (Mid – year intake)	Turn 5 before 1 <sup>st</sup> May Turn 5 before 31 <sup>st</sup> July Turn 5 before 30 <sup>th</sup> September.

Children may proceed to Year 3 when they have completed at least 12 full terms at school. Student progression to the next year level (Rec - Year 1) will be determined by the school in consultation with the parents and/ or carers. Student beginning in Reception in Term 2 or 3 will spend at least 5 or 6 terms in Reception.

### **Transition from Kindergarten / Home to School**

- **Pre-enrolment enquiries** are welcome and the Principal is available to provide a tour of the School and answer any of your enrolment questions (please make an appointment). Children are offered the chance to take part in a transition program prior to starting school. A parent orientation visit with the Junior School Coordinator is also organised to coincide with the Transition Program.
- Transition into any new situation or environment can be a difficult time for children and their families. The early years of formal schooling provide the critical foundation upon which future success at school is based. Crossways is committed to ensuring a smooth transition from home or pre-school into school. The basis of an effective transition is the partnership formed between school and families through free and regular communication. Modified transition programs can be provided by negotiation with the Principal and Reception teacher and families should talk to school staff about any needs, questions or concerns that they may have.
- During the Initial transition (during Term four), students will attend for a short period, gradually increasing until they are attending for a full day. This allows children time to adjust to new routines and the new environment. During this time, it is the responsibility of parents to involve their child/children in the program. The School always encourages parents to spend time at school, but it is particularly important during this transition phase.
- A readiness assessment, designed to indicate whether the child is ready to enter school on a full-time basis, may need to be carried out by the appropriate school staff. This assessment may also involve liaising with Pre-school teachers (if appropriate) to ascertain their assessment of the child's readiness. If a child is deemed not ready for school, appropriate school staff will recommend a suitable transition program.

- Physical development and social readiness are important precursors to student learning and parents should not consider that spending additional time in Reception in order to further develop the student as 'holding them back'. Reception teachers may recommend that a student not move to Year 1 in the following year for a variety of reasons; however, this is always negotiated with the parents concerned.
- Students enrolled from May 1 will spend at least 18 months in Reception before progression to Year 1.

Experience has shown that for some children, some additional time in Reception to allow the student's physical confidence and social skills to further develop, has resulted in smooth and successful progression in later years. Conversely, students who move into Year One while still somewhat unsettled or unsure about school may experience difficulties in grasping important key skills, hindering their future progression. Our experienced teachers can offer you advice regarding when best to begin transition and your child's readiness to proceed beyond Reception and we encourage you to approach them with any questions you may have.

Endorsed by School Council	Dec 2015	Next Review Date	Dec 2017
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## Transition Program into Reception Class

The early years of formal schooling provide the critical foundation upon which future success at school is based. Crossways is committed to ensuring a smooth transition from Local Kindergarten into school. Modified transition programs can be provided by negotiation with the Principal and Reception teacher and families should talk to school staff about any needs, questions or concerns that they may have.

Before starting the Transition Programme, children must be at least four years and 7 months old. Initially, they will attend for a couple of hours, gradually increasing until they are attending for a full day. This allows children time to adjust to new routines and the new environment. We encourage parents to ensure that their children participate in this program because it positively impacts on their Transition to Reception. The School always encourages parents to spend time at school, but it is particularly important during this transition phase. Therefore, we ask that parents remain a little while to help them to settle in. Parents will also need to make sure that they collect their child at the end of the transition session, as indicated by the times below.

### Crossways Lutheran School-Transition Program 2015 for 2016 School Year

Term 4	Day and Date	Transition For Terms 1 and 4
Week 2 First School Visit	Tuesday October <b>BEGINNING of RECESS</b>	8:50am to 10.45pm <u>Pick Up 10.45 am</u>
Week 3 Second School Visit	Tuesday October <b>END of RECESS</b>	8:50am to 11.05am - Children will need Recess snack. <u>Pick Up 11.05 am</u>
Week 4 Third School Visit	Tuesday November <b>BEGINNING of LUNCH</b>	8:50am to 12.45pm - Children will need Recess snack. <u>Pick Up 12.45 pm</u>
Week 5 Fourth School Visit	Tuesday November <b>END of LUNCH</b>	8:50am to 1.30pm - Children will need Recess snack and a packed lunch. <u>Pick Up 1.30 pm</u>
Week 6 Fifth School Visit	Tuesday November <b>FULL DAY</b>	8:50am to 3.15pm - Children will need Recess snack and a packed lunch. <u>Pick Up 3.15 pm</u>
Week 7 Sixth School Visit	Tuesday November <b>FULL DAY</b>	8:50am to 3.15pm - Children will need Recess snack and a packed lunch. <u>Pick Up 3.15 pm</u>

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school, by ringing 86252873 and asking for Mr. Pienaar (Principal) or Miss Georgia Pleass (Class Teacher).

## Some helpful ideas for new school beginners

### **Write your child's name on everything**

You can:

- use a permanent laundry marker to label clothes, hats and shoes, or sew or iron on personalised labels
- check that labels haven't faded with washing
- go through your child's bag with them each night
- all schools have a lost property area, so ask at the office if something doesn't come home.

### **Activities to try with your child before starting school and during transition**

These activities are suggestions of things to do with children before they start school to make school a little easier for them.

#### **Language skills**

- sing songs together and tell each other jokes and rhymes
- give your child simple instructions to follow, e.g. how to pack a bag
- use books for enjoyment, e.g. looking at pictures, identify pictures in magazines, on television, or the Internet
- encourage your child to join in conversations, ask them **"What did you do at school today?"**

If your child answers this question by saying "Nothing", try asking a different question:

**"What words did you learn today? Who did you play with at lunch time? What did you enjoy most?"**

#### **Writing skills**

- give your child pencils, markers, crayons, paintbrushes to, scribble or write with and sticks with which to draw in the sand.
- write numbers and letters
- encourage your child to write his or her name, use a capital letter to start their name, e.g. Jack.

#### **Mathematics skills**

- encourage your child to recognise numbers using words such as many, a lot, more, less
- help your child to find things in a group that are different, such as differences in shapes
- talk about opposites; – up and down, under and over, in front and behind, day and night.

#### **Personal/social skills**

- organise times for your child to play with other children so that they can learn to share and take turns
- encourage your child to tidy up after playing
- help your child to learn to say their full name and their address
- make your child aware of rules and the reasons for having them.

#### **Physical skills**

- provide practice using scissors
- provide opportunities to play with building blocks and other puzzles
- play hopping and skipping games.

**Keep playing: Play** is one of the most important needs children have and this does not change once children enter Kindergarten. Playing enhances all aspects of their healthy development. Children play because it is fun, but as they play they are actually learning. When children play they are using their bodies, their imagination, and learning how to communicate and cooperate. They learn how things work and how to manage feelings. Please allow some unstructured time after each school day for your child to relax and play.

## Food & Drinks at Crossways School

### Eating at school

Eating at school will be a different experience for your child compared with eating at home or at preschool. There are no places to keep food hot or cold. Children often sit on the grass or on benches and balance their food on their knees. They will also need to be able to open everything that their food is wrapped in and they won't want to spend so much time eating that they miss out on playing.

### Crossways is an active participant in the National CRUNCH & SIP programme

The Crunch & Sip program is an easy way to help children to stay healthy and happy!

Crunch & Sip is a set break to eat fruit or salad vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Students re-fuel with fruit or vegetables during the morning or afternoon, assisting physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom. Crossways Lutheran School provides each classroom with a daily mixture of chopped up fruit and vegetables from which students can choose. Crossways also supports and encourages students to drink water at school.



### Tips to help your child

- Pack food that is easy to open, easy to eat and not messy.
- Write their name on their lunch box, water bottle and any other containers.
- In hot weather, include a frozen drink bottle to keep food cold. Wrap it in a tea towel in case it leaks.
- Avoid using plastic wrap because children find it hard to pull apart.
- Remind your child to wash their hands before eating and to use the toilet at recess and lunch.
- If you make lunches the night before, store them in the fridge until school time.
- Pack a water bottle for your child each day and remind them that they can also get water from the taps throughout the day.

### Recess and lunch ideas

- Cut fruit into pieces (squeeze a little lemon on to stop them going brown) and put them in a small container.
- Cut up vegetables such as carrots, celery and cucumber and put them in a snap-lock plastic bag. In a separate container put dips or yoghurt to dip carrots in.
- Make wholemeal muffins and freeze them.
- Frozen orange quarters and pineapple rings are refreshing treats in summer.
- Try different breads, such as rolls, pita, wholegrain or tortilla wraps.
- If using tomato, slice thinly and place between other fillings to stop the sandwich going soggy.
- Cook a little extra dinner and save some for lunch the next day. Quiche, homemade pizza slices, vegetable patties, roast vegetables, noodle salads or sausages could be used.

### When lunches come home

Don't be too worried if your child doesn't eat lunch to start with. Sometimes children are too excited or too busy having fun playing with their friends at mealtimes and may not eat all their food. If your child is very hungry after school you may want to remind them about eating their lunch. Your child's eating habits will eventually settle into a routine.