



## Pre-Prep - It Starts Here

At four years of age, children are generally ready and eager to engage in structured, play-based learning programs in preparation for their formal years of schooling. With various options available for the early years, the Pre-Prep Program designed for four year olds, is an opportunity for the learning journey to commence in a school environment.

At Townsville Grammar School, the Pre-Prep Program is the first possible entry point to the School community, and marks the beginning of the Grammar education experience.

Principal of Townsville Grammar School, Mr Timothy Kelly, says “This is where it begins. “This is where children enter our school system, where they begin to become familiar with our community, our culture and our learning ethos. This is where we must capture our students’ imagination and instil a great sense of wonder for learning.”

The Pre-Prep program at Townsville Grammar School is delivered in purpose-designed Early Education Centres located at the Junior School Campuses in Annandale and North Shore.

Director of Early Education for Townsville Grammar School, Ms Cyndi Friend, says the Pre-Prep program is led by university qualified teachers and diploma-level educators who are passionate and knowledgeable about educating children within this age group. “Our program is learning-based,” said Ms Friend.

“We value the theory of learning through play, where children can parallel play and work in small

groups to develop social skills, mature emotionally and gain self-confidence to engage in new experiences and environments. Playing helps young children’s brains to develop, it helps their language and communication skills, it fosters creativity and provides real opportunities where they can learn to make sense of the world around them.”

“We are also very focused on building respectful relationships and community, where parents are very much involved,” said Ms Friend. “This creates a positive learning environment, a sense of belonging, and leads to each child feeling valued and appreciated.”

The Pre-Prep Program at Townsville Grammar School has the added advantage of being campus-based. “Because our Early Education Centres are based on our school sites, we are a part of the Junior School community and, therefore, we are involved in the events, celebrations and the culture of the School. We also utilise the Junior Schools’ facilities such as sports grounds, libraries and music rooms, and we make use of these whenever possible.”

“This inclusion and involvement in the Junior School community also paves the way for a smooth transition into the Prep Year. Our Pre-Preps visit the Prep classrooms and work with specialist teachers such as drama, music and physical education. We have an orientation morning and parent information events to help our families become familiar with what life is like in Pre-Prep, and encourage their engagement and involvement to truly build our sense of community.”