

Key elements of being school ready

- Ability to interact with other children, demonstrate basic manners, assert themselves, and to play independently as well as with other children.
 - To manage own emotions, cope with minimal adult contact in large groups, focus on tasks, follow directions and instructions from teachers, cope with the changes of an older schooling environment, and understand rules.
 - Communicate and listen to adults and other children, speak clearly, communicate needs, understand stories, and begin to identify some letters and sounds.
 - Basic number sense, thinking skills, ability to wait and take turns.
 - Basic fine motor-skills, the ability to grip a pencil, do up a zipper and dress self
- Physical coordination, ability to run, jump, climb, catch and throw a ball.

How is The Learning Cottage implementing a school readiness program suitable to your child

Educators are thoughtful planners and supports in your child's education, ensuring learning is purposeful, creative and most importantly enjoyable! Our curriculum is in reference to the Early Years Framework, 3-5 years milestones and the munch and move program, ultimately shaping a holistic program inclusive of the individual strengths, curiosities and areas of development of your child.

Our program is inclusive of but not limited to:

- *Language & Literacy*
Storytelling, dramatic play and communication
- *Mathematical Learning*
Numbers and measurements, shapes and spatial awareness, patterning sorting and classifying
- *Expressive Arts*
Drama and dance, art, design and music
- *Outdoor and Physical activity (munch and move)* Movement and coordination, gross motor skill development, understanding the environment
- *Family and Community*
Diversity, partnerships and collaboration, shared decision making
- *Science and technology*
Enquiry and investigation, collecting and organising data
- *Independence and responsibility*
Caring for self and others (empathy), contributing to a group constructively, Personal care and hygiene
- *Social and emotional development*
Understanding feelings, demonstrating self-control, working with others

Preschool Program

A specialised school readiness program



The Learning Cottage

Early Education and Care



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The Learning Cottage, Lismore

Located in the Lismore CBD nestled between neighboring houses is The Learning Cottage. Open 6:30am-6:30pm Monday- Friday for 52 weeks of the year, we pride ourselves on our boutique, home like environment, focusing on meaningful relationships, high quality education, full nutritional catering and our outstanding team of educators, including 2 Early Childhood Teachers.

The Learning Cottage, Wollongbar

The Learning Cottage Wollongbar is conveniently located between Ballina and Goonellabah within a quiet, residential street. This 46-place service provides care from Monday- Friday, 7am-6pm, 50 weeks of the year. TLC Wollongbar has taken on Lismore's philosophy and core values, ultimately providing high quality care and education. The preschool program is taught by 2 highly experienced Early Childhood Teachers.

Our Philosophy

Our philosophy highlights our holistic and play based approach to learning and our passion for sustainability, including the importance of taking care of our bodies, land, water and other living beings.

We work closely with our children, families and community to create a program that is meaningful and relative to the children's interests, strengths and areas of development. Our educators ensure The Early Years Framework is implemented through quality practices and within guidance of each child's level of development.

We strive to provide a home-like environment that is welcoming, warm, reflective of Lismore's diversities and most importantly the lives of our children, families and educators.



Outdoors Natural play with a focus on sustainable teachings



Outdoors Gross motor and sensory exploration



Indoors Project driven exploration and interest-based play



Indoors School-readiness tabletop activities supported by Bachelor of Early Childhood Teachers



Inclusions:

- Eligible to attend at 3 years of age
- Nutritious meals provided- (Lismore service only)
- Bachelor and Diploma qualified teachers
- Supported by extended hours of care 6:30am - 6:30pm
- Open 52 weeks of the year
- Care available until school year commences in February
- Program delivered under the EYLF curriculum
- Interest play-based approach to learning
- Variety of Excursions and Incursions included
- Graduation ceremony
- Childcare benefits & rebates available
- High-quality resources and technology

School Readiness

School readiness doesn't necessarily mean that children need to be able to read, write and do basic math's before starting at school. School readiness is about the development of the child, their ability to problem solve socially, regulate their emotions, be confident in their actions while having the ability to participate and learn in a classroom setting.

At The Learning Cottage our school readiness program is developed in reference to The Early Years Framework in close relation to local schools, ensuring that children and families are provided with the necessary skills for their transition into school.

“This preschool program is also supported by extended hours of care. This means you have greater flexibility and convenience around your working hours and other family commitments”



“Through play-based learning, reflection and strong communication with our families, we work as a team to discover areas of strengths and development in our children.”

Sheridan Waddell, Early Childhood Teacher at The Learning Cottage, Wollongbar.