



2024

Welcome to Prep

Every Student Achieving Success

Acknowledgment to Country

Earnshaw State College acknowledges the traditional owners, the Turrbal and Jagera First Nations people as the custodians of where we gather today, recognising their connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Australia's First Nations people and to their elder's past, present and emerging. May their strength and wisdom be with us today.

Welcome to Earnshaw State College

Earnshaw State College is a P-12 college located in Banyo amid a vibrant and growing business district situated within the Airport Development Precinct. Earnshaw's location and seamless P-12 approach to schooling, delivering unique and exciting learning opportunities for our students

We are looking forward to getting to know you, the parents and carers, as well as your child. The staff are pleased to have the opportunity to work with you, as we believe education is a combined venture for the child, in partnership with parents, teachers and the whole community.

The Earnshaw community sets high expectations for student behaviour and supports students' social and emotional development. Learning experiences contribute to developing children's positive identity, self-esteem, resilience, personal organisation and independence as they interact successfully with others and their learning environment.

College Principal:	Karen McKinnon
Associate Principal - Primary:	Trent Perry
Deputy Principal – Primary:	Kim Macleod

Our College Mission

Embrace Challenge ~ Learn with Passion ~ Take Opportunities

Our College Vision

Every Student Achieving Success

Our College Values:

Diligence ~ Integrity ~ Courage ~ Empathy

Our College Motto

Prepare Today for Tomorrow

Our College Expectations

Be Responsible ~ Be Respectful ~ Be Safe

The Primary School at Earnshaw

Welcome to the Primary School, the Prep – Year 6 phase of learning at Earnshaw State College.

Address:

438 Earnshaw Road, Banyo 4014 (Cnr Earnshaw and Tufnell Roads)

Postal: PO Box 242, Banyo 4014

Primary Office: Victor Street, Banyo 4014 Administration: 07 3621 7333

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours: 8am – 3.30pm

Email (general): admin@earnshawsc.eq.edu.au

Email (student absence): student.absence@earnshawsc.eq.edu.au

BELL TIMES

First bell: 8.25am for an 8.30am start Fruit break: 9.50am

Lunch one: 11.05am Lunch two: 12.55pm School finishes 2.40pm

SCHOOL TERM DATES for 2024

Term	Date	Length
Term 1	Monday 22 January to Thursday 28 March	10 weeks
Term 2	Monday 15 April to Friday 21 June	10 weeks
Term 3	Monday 8 July to Friday 13 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Monday 30 September to Friday 13 December	11 weeks

First Day of School

Bring all **booklist items** in a separate bag. It is always appreciated if you purchase the booklist from the ESC Book Shop, that way all students have the same items. **Label all books, folders and headphones.** Stationery such as pencils, glue, crayons do not need to be labelled as we share these items.

Let your child carry their school bag.

Settle your child at a table activity.

Prepare your child. Let them know that you will leave when the teacher rings the Prep bell and reassure them that you will be back in the afternoon at 2:40 pm.

If your child is emotional, it is important not to prolong your departure as this makes it more difficult for both the child and the parent. Remember that after you leave, your child will settle and enjoy the activities planned for them.

Please stay in the waiting area at pick up time. We will open the Prep door/gate when ready. All children need a parent, older sibling or an after-school care staff member to collect them.

Ask your child specific questions about their day. As children get older, "What did you do today?" is inevitably met with "dunno" or "nothing". Specific questions allow them to reflect on their day e.g. "What did you enjoy the most?" "What did you try that was new?" "What was fun?" "What was tricky?" "Who did you play with today?" Ensure school conversations are positive.



What is PREP Education All About?

Prep prepares children for lifelong learning.

On entry to Prep, every student is recognised as a capable and individual learner. Teachers build from each student's diverse prior experience, teaching in ways known to engage young learners, support their learning and foster development.

Prep provides the foundation for your child's success at school and beyond by developing:

- the knowledge, understanding and skills detailed in the Australian Curriculum
- a positive approach to learning
- independence and confidence
- creativity and problem-solving skills
- physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills.



What Does Early Learning Look Like at Earnshaw?

Our students learn through play-based and enquiry-based approaches, interactions, active explorations and experimentation. They make decisions, solve problems, develop thinking skills, collaborate, communicate and develop a positive sense of self.

Children learn about:

- speaking, listening, reading and writing (**English**)
- **mathematics** and problem solving
- **science**, exploring interesting and important questions about the biological, physical and technological world
- **history**, beginning to examine and enquire about the past to develop curiosity and imagination.

Prep children also learn about:

- negotiating rights, roles and responsibilities and developing social skills for working and playing with others
- diverse social and cultural practices of people in their community
- making healthy choices
- experimenting with materials in a variety of creative, imaginative and innovative ways
- technology in everyday life, music and movement

What Literacy Skills will your Child Learn at School?

Your child's teacher will identify what each child already knows and can do, and will build on your child's previous experiences with new and different learning opportunities.

In Prep:

- Teachers help children to **connect their home language with spoken and written English** used in the classroom and other environments.
- Children will learn how to **speak in different situations**, for example, in play, telling a story, or telling what happened on a picnic. (*Speaking and Listening*)
- Children will learn to understand that letters represent sounds that they hear and that **printed words have meaning** and together **words can describe ideas and events and tell a story**. (*Reading*)
- Children engage with **written language** to help them learn about letters, words, sentences, directions and routines. They learn to write sounds and blend them together to form words. Materials for **writing** are available to encourage children to use their literacy skills. (*Writing*)

In Years 1 to 3

- Children use language in increasingly complex and unfamiliar situations and for different purposes. They speak and write about real-life and imagined events and learn ways to improve their written work through drafting and editing.

A Structured Approach to the Teaching of Reading

What will I see my child doing?

- negotiating rights, roles and responsibilities
- developing social skills for working and playing with new friends
- exploring their environment
- problem solving and investigating numbers, learning about size, shape, weight and measurement
- experimenting, designing and creating with materials
- singing, dancing and painting
- listening to stories
- playing games indoors and outdoors
- planning and sharing in make-believe play
- writing and shaping letters
- recognising sounds
- rhythm, rhyming and alliteration
- writing simple sentences
- using technology to assist learning
- speaking to an audience
- reading short, decodable texts
- participating in specialist lessons e.g. PE, Music, Languages, Library and Swimming
- celebrations such as Book Week, Under 8s' Day and Sports Days,

PREP children will be gradually introduced to school by:

- walking around the school, identifying various areas
- visits from school staff
- participation in Whole College and Junior Assemblies
- understanding the different areas of the school and where each year level learns, eats and plays



Attendance and Punctuality

100% student attendance is expected.

We all get sick from time to time and that's okay! However, when a student is away often, they miss learning opportunities. It can also create anxiety as they struggle to settle back into the school routine.

- If your child is **absent**, please notify the Junior Office by phone before 8:25am.
- If you arrive **later** than 8:40, you must sign your child in at the Junior Office.
- If you need to collect your child **before** 2:40pm, you must sign them out at the office before collecting them from the classroom.
- Please let the class teacher know if you have arranged for someone else to collect your child.

When the morning bell rings, students will be invited inside. Students will invite parents in when the afternoon bell rings. Prep students must be picked up from the classroom. Punctuality is important as young children worry if parents/carers come late.

Parents and Carers

As parents, you play a vital and valued role in the education of your child. Parents are always most welcome and encouraged to participate in many aspects of Prep life.

You can help by:

- volunteering for Reading Groups, or in the Tuckshop or Bookshop
- taking an active part in school celebrations and events
- staying informed by reading and responding to notices in school newsletters, Prep newsletters, or through Class Dojo and emails
- offering to share interests and expertise that you may have e.g. pottery, cooking
- supporting the P&C Association and the wonderful work they do for our school community.

Contact email: pandc@earnshawsc.eq.edu.au

What your child needs to bring - ENSURE ALL BELONGINGS ARE CLEARLY NAMED

Please ensure your child brings the following to school each day:

- large school bag
- school hat
- lunchbox with fresh fruit, lunch and a water bottle
- home reading folder
- a spare change of clothes, in front pocket for unforeseen incidents.
(ie. Navy shorts/skort and underwear)

UNIFORMS

The Earnshaw Prep uniform is our college sports uniform and has been designed for comfort at play. Uniforms are available from the uniform shop at school or from the School Locker at North Lakes.

- ESC junior polo shirt
- Plain navy shorts or skirt
- Short white socks
- ESC broad-brimmed hat or house colour reversible bucket hat
- Predominantly black or white joggers, preferably with Velcro closure
- Winter- ESC jumper or jacket or a non-branded navy jumper with no hoodie
- Winter – navy track pants or tights are allowed

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please ensure your child can independently open and close their own lunchbox, open packets and lids and refill their drink bottle.

Students need enough food for fruit break and two lunch breaks. Great options include sandwiches with a healthy filling, leftovers or nourishing salads. Fruit, cheese, savoury biscuits, fresh veggies and yoghurt are perfect snacks. Please avoid sweets, lollies, chocolates and keep treats for home time.

If your child prefers their fruit cut up, please do so at home. Peanuts and nuts are common food allergens and reactions can be fatal. In order to keep our school environment safe, we request that you do not pack any form of nuts. You will be advised of any other food items that are an allergy concern to any student in your class

CLASS DOJO

Open communication and engagement with families is essential. In Prep, we use the Class Dojo App as our preferred point of contact. At the beginning of the year, you will receive your login details.



DAILY ROUTINES

The morning bell rings at 8:25am, students are invited in and neatly put their belongings away. They find their table and complete their name writing activity. At 2:40pm, parents are invited inside. Please check the Parent Pockets at the entry for any notes going home.

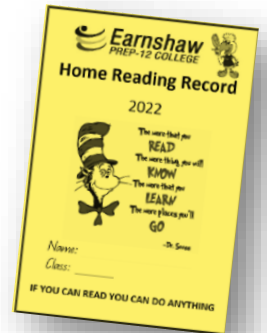
HOME READING

Students are encouraged to read every night.

In Term 1, parents **read to** children. This is recorded in the Home Reading Record. From Term 2, as children are ready, Home Readers are sent home in a clipboard folder. These are returned daily so your child can bring home a new book. Your child will receive awards at Assembly after 100, 200 and 300 nights of reading.

READING GROUPS

We would absolutely love to invite you to help with our reading groups. It is a wonderful opportunity to see your child in their classroom environment and will benefit them hugely. You will receive communication to organise this when they begin.



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE (OHSC)

Care is available five days per week. Before school, the service operates From 6.30 am to 8.45 am. After school, the service operates 2.40 pm to 6.00 pm. Helping Hands Educators pick up and drop off the Prep students.

A Vacation Care Program is also available for during the school holidays.

0448 371 401 earnshaw@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au



TREASURES AND NEWS FROM HOME

Toys and jewellery can get lost or broken at Prep. It saves tears if these items are left safely at home. Events and occurrences from home, both positive and negative, can impact children's engagement. Please let your class teacher know about any happenings at home.

SWIMMING LESSONS

All ESC classes have weekly swimming lessons in Term 1 and 4. **Payment and permission forms must be submitted to the Junior Office prior to this.** Students will need sun safe swimwear, a swimming cap and a towel. Preps swim first thing in the morning, so they may wear their swimwear under their uniform.



ASSEMBLIES

School Assemblies are held on Friday mornings at 8:45am in our Sports Hall. These may be Primary or Whole College, on special occasions. All families are welcome to attend. The College Calendar informs families when Primary assemblies are held. You will be notified if your child will be receiving an award.

BIRTHDAYS

You are welcome to send along something to share on your child's birthday. Items that are easily shared are best e.g. cupcakes, ice blocks. All birthdays in Prep will be celebrated! Please be mindful of student allergies.

TUCKSHOP

If you wish to order tuckshop for your child, we encourage the safe use of the Qkr! App (available for all phone types) or online: <https://qkr-store.qkrschool.com/store/#/home> .

Orders need to be placed **by 8:30am** and all payments are online. Alternatively, write your child's **name, class and order** clearly on a paper bag with the **correct money** inside. Students will place it in the classroom tuckshop box. **All orders will be delivered to Prep.**



Preparing your child for PREP

Parents are their child's first teacher. You might not realise it, but you are already contributing to your child's learning.

Research has shown that a child's speech and language skills are one of the strongest predictors of literacy ability.

The best thing you can do for your child is to **talk with them and read to them**. We recommend parents:

- read aloud to your child. Reading aloud helps develop the imagination. It allows listeners to form a picture in their minds and helps develop an awareness of the patterns of language
- read books, signs, shopping lists and packets aloud
- talk about what your child is doing in everyday activities
- talk about words (that's a long word)
- talk about sounds rather than letters
- sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes together
- listen to your child when they are telling a story
- respect your child's natural curiosity. Be patient and try to find the time to answer the many questions they ask or make ways to find answers together
- ask questions that require more than a yes or no answer (What would you do if...? How would you ...? What's happening in this picture?)
- show your child numbers in the environment, count everyday objects and point out shapes and patterns
- play card and board games together to develop mathematical, problem-solving, language and social skills such as turn-taking and not always winning
- find opportunities to write with your child. For example: lists for grocery shopping or things to take on trips and writing letters



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD’S LEARNING THROUGHOUT SCHOOL

The early years are a critical time for your child as they begin to learn skills and capabilities that they will continue to develop throughout their lifetime. You might not realise it, but you are already contributing to your child’s learning.

When your child starts school, it is critical for you to continue to **play an active role** in helping to develop your child’s literacy and numeracy so they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

- Young children **learn through play**. As a parent you can help your child learn by sharing fun activities that allow them to experience and explore the world around them.
- Young children learn early literacy and numeracy concepts in many different ways. Encourage your child to **participate in a wide range of activities** that interest them.
- By spending **time** with your child and **giving them lots of encouragement and praise**, you will help build their self-esteem and give them the confidence to try new things.
- Children’s physical and learning skills develop steadily over time, so it is important that **expectations of your child’s abilities are appropriate for their age**.
- Be an active parent and **speak with your child’s new teacher**. Sharing information about your child’s interests and development with their teacher will help make Prep a happy place and a positive experience for your child.

SUPPORTING LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

These are simple, yet effective, activities you can do with your child to help them **apply** the literacy skills they learn at school:

- Create a special place for your child to read, write or draw. Fill it with books, blank paper and pencils.
- Make a **scrapbook** - about a holiday, special event, or pictures from old magazines. Help your child write captions for the images.
- Make your kitchen a reading **zone** - use fridge magnets to make words, help your child write the shopping list and read labels.
- Make the writing of **messages, cards or emails** a family activity. Write notes to your child and encourage them to write notes back to you.



DEVELOPING SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME

Young children need opportunities to learn to **listen and make meaning** from the talk of others. Understanding what they see, hear and read is crucial for literacy learning. Do not underestimate the power of **talking to your child**. This is how they learn new words, learn how to speak in longer sentences, and learn the correct way to use grammar and other basic concepts such as past tense and even words like ‘on’, ‘in’, ‘before’ and ‘after’.

Simplify

- Simplify or rephrase the question or instruction when your child doesn’t understand
- Break down the question or instruction into steps
- Repeat the question or instruction – they might just not be listening!

Prompt

Use a prompt if your child is unable to respond to your question:

- Use an open-ended sentence e.g., “*After we add the cereal, we add the...*”
- Provide the first sound in a target word e.g., “*Look, he’s eating a yummy b...*”
- Let the child know you want them to continue or expand e.g., “*...and?*”, “*mm-hmm?*”

Asking Questions

- Offer a choice, e.g., “How many people are there in this photo? Three or four?”
- Focus on important details e.g. “What **colour** is that car? What **colour** is this one?”
- Ask open ended questions starting with who/what/when/where/how words
- Give your child plenty of time to respond

Expand

- This is a positive way to build on what your child already knows and expose them to more complex language
- Increase the child’s sentence by a word or a phrase e.g.,
Child: “Dad is going.” Adult: “Yes, dad is going **to work**.”

Sabotage

- On occasion, deliberately make an error to see if your child corrects you
- If your child doesn’t notice the error, identify and correct the error, e.g., “Can you put the knives and forks **under** the table please?” (Wait for child to correct) “Silly me! I meant to say put the knives and forks **on** the table please!”

Model and repair

- This is a positive way to emphasise the words or grammar you want the child to learn e.g. Child: “The little boy **ranned** away!” Adult: “Oh dear, the little boy did **run** away!”

WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO LOVE READING

Young children have an enormous appetite for learning – every new word is a wonder and the entire world is a classroom. As your child’s first teacher you can help them develop a lifelong love of reading.

- Read aloud to them every day (see below)
- Take your child to the **local library** and let them choose books to borrow
- Show the **importance of reading in your daily life** by reading aloud (for example, recipes, text messages) and let them see YOU reading.
- Point to and read **common words in the daily environment** such as *STOP, Toilets, Exit.*

Reading aloud to your child

- Set aside a **special time** each day to read to your child.
- Select a place that is **cosy, quiet** and away from distractions.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Pick a great book - **books that interest** both you and your child with **rich illustrations**
- Books with **rhyming elements** or repetition are fantastic for children who are learning to read. Help your child to join in by letting them finish the sentences.
- Read children's **favourites** as often as they want to hear them! Ask your child to retell their favourite stories
- Read at a **leisurely pace** with pauses here and there. This gives children time to take in what they hear, notice the pictures and to build mental images.
- Read with **expression and feeling** - try different voices and sounds - make the snake hisssss, the door creeeak! Use pacing by reading slower or faster as the story changes.
- **Make mistakes:** This is fun to do, especially when reading a book you’ve read a hundred times! Try replacing words and let your child correct you. Not only does this involve your child, but it also shows them that it’s okay to make mistakes when reading.



- Ask your child to **find things in the illustrations**. Many books have things hidden in the illustrations for this purpose. **Look closely at the pictures** and **use them to understand the story** and **make predictions** about what might happen next. “What do you think is going to happen next?” “What would you do if you were the character?” “Where did he go? Why did she do that?”

NUMERACY

Numeracy is about counting, problem-solving, organising, measuring and estimating, as well as making patterns and sequencing.

Here are some simple yet effective activities you can do with your child to help them apply the numeracy skills they learn at school:

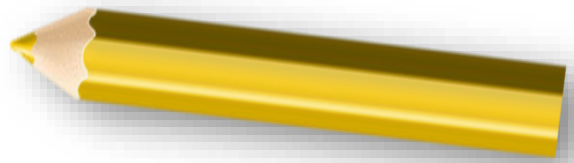
- explore situations **using money** eg. counting money, shopping, **prices** in junk mail.
- record your child’s growth on a **height** chart
- estimate, measure and compare **lengths and heights**, how heavy or light objects are and how much containers hold — for example, how many cups do you think it will take to fill the bucket with sand?
- use everyday **tools** like tape measures, or kitchen scales
- **count** everything — toys, the number of pegs needed to hang clothes on the line and the number of buttons on your clothes
- take your child on a ‘**number** hunt’ in your home or community — point out how numbers are used on everyday household items such as the telephone, or your house number in the street
- talk about **time** — ask your child to check the time on the clock when they go to school, eat meals, watch their favourite television program and go to bed
- play ‘I spy’ and look for different **shapes and colours** — ‘I spy something that is round’ or ‘I spy something that is rectangular’
- go on a ‘**shape** hunt’ — have your child look for as many circles, squares, triangles and rectangles as they can find in the home or in the yard
- when using public transport, read **timetables**; look at routes on a map or figure out the number of stops the bus or train will make before you get to your destination



HANDWRITING

Fine Motor strength and control

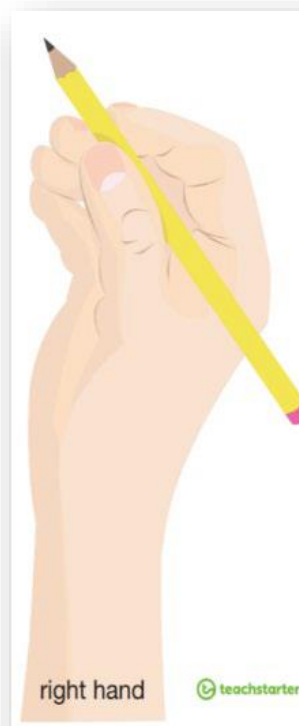
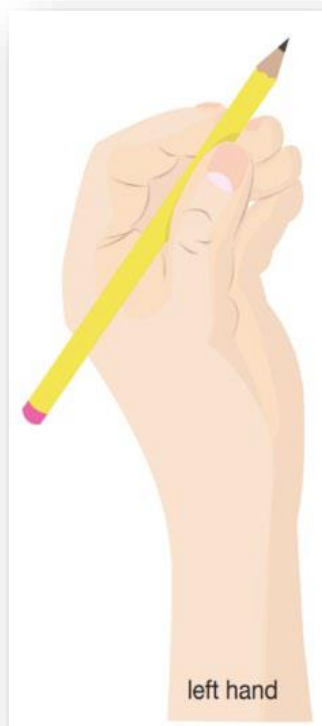
During the Prep year, children develop their ability to control a pencil and other writing/drawing tools. To help your child develop pencil control:



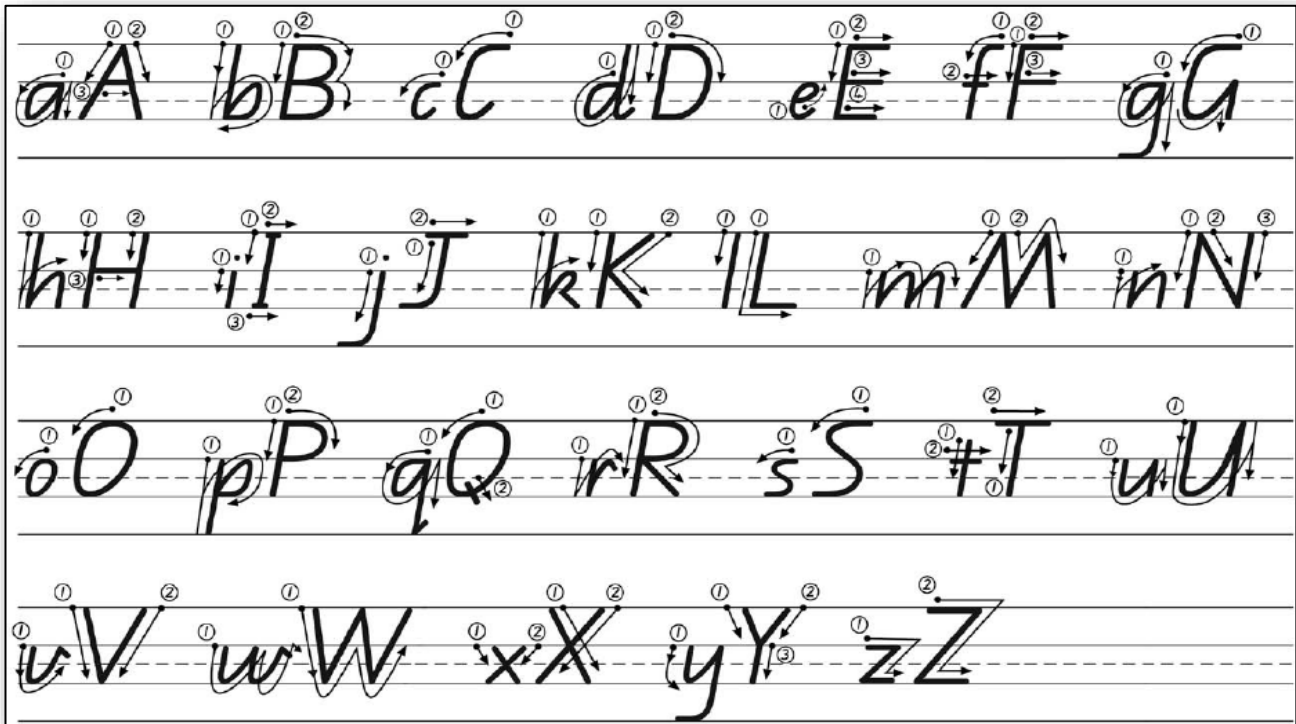
- provide thick pencils/crayons/pens, then gradually reduce the thickness of the tools
- support your child to build their hand strength; e.g. gripping and swinging on monkey bars/ropes, digging with a sandpit shovel, squeezing water from shampoo bottle and using trigger-spray containers
- Allow them to cut and glue small objects, use construction sets, and manipulate puzzle and game pieces to build finger control

Holding Your Pencil

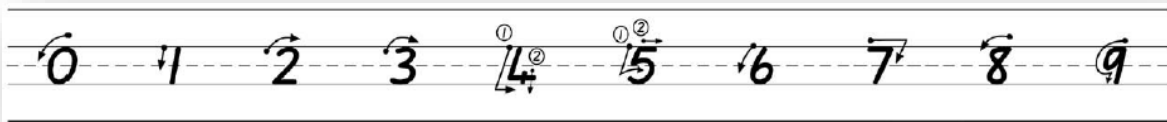
1. Pinch your thumb and pointer finger together
2. Place the pencil between your thumb and pointer finger and then tuck your remaining three fingers in towards your palm
3. The pencil should rest on the end of your middle finger
4. Lie the pencil back so it is lightly resting on your hand, in between your thumb and your pointer finger



Beginners Handwriting Chart



Beginner's Numeral handwriting Chart



Concepts About Print

Concepts About Print teach children how reading 'works' and begins very early in a child's literacy development. These concepts are taken for granted by fluent readers but need to be explored and explained to beginning readers. As you read familiar books with your child, point out and discuss the following features:

- front cover
- back cover
- title
- where to begin reading
- read text from left to right
- return sweep at the end of a line
- one spoken word for each written word (one-to-one correspondence)
- capital and lowercase letters
- letter names
- full stop

NOTES



PREP Handbook Subject Guide Updated June 2024

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