Well before your child can read and write letters and cards, they will understand the excitement of opening envelopes to reveal colourful pictures. Birthdays, in particular are exciting events at which cards mean a great deal. Creating cards for special occasions is an activity that most children enjoy. It is also a great pre-writing skill, as it shows your child how easy, and how fun it is to communicate good wishes on paper.

Even when there isn’t any particular event to celebrate, encourage your child to draw a special picture on a piece of folded paper and ‘write’ a message inside that they can give to someone in the family.

This is a particularly nice way to keep in touch with relatives who live at a distance.

As your child’s writing skills progress, they can start to put their name on the card, and add some ‘x’s for kisses at the bottom. If you write out a short message, such as ‘I miss you’, your child might be able to copy or trace the letters themselves.

Encourage your child to create their own cards for all the major events that you celebrate in your family. Most people get far more enjoyment from receiving a homemade card from a child than a shop-bought one. Use stiff card and stock up on some large envelopes. A supply of felt-tips pens, crayons, stickers, glitters and stars will also be useful for enhancing decoration still further.

Play & Learn:

Name Cards: Fold a piece of paper in half and carefully mark out the initial (or age) of the person you’re sending it to. With child-safe scissors, your child can cut around most of the outline of the letter or number so that forms the front of the card, then they can decorate it.

Wish You Were Here: Help your child to make pretend postcards to send to friends and family (if you don’t have any spare postcards, they could always make some of their own). Ask them to dictate a message for you to write on the back and then let them add a funny stamp as a finishing touch!

Mrs Cornelie Johnson
Director Pre-Prep Learning Centre
The Koalas

In the Koala Room this term we have started to learn all about the alphabet letters we find in Letterland and their letter shapes as well. We have met Annie Apple and Mr A and we have been tracking their letter shapes using our GYRT program.

We also learnt about ANZAC Day and continued our exploration of the garden and the animals that live there. We are excited to see what the rest of the term brings.

The Wombats

In the first week of Term 2 we learnt about ANZAC Day. We looked at the Australian and New Zealand flags – the children noted the differences and similarities; where the countries are in the world, and what uniforms they wear. This led to how the soldier’s uniform helps to camouflage them. We dressed Kaitlyn in a bright shirt and Zechariah in an army jump suit. They both went out and hid in the garden while the rest of the class counted to 20. When searching, it was very easy to spot Kaitlyn in the bushes, but the children had to look carefully to find Zechariah.

Rapid Revision

Mackay Christian College Pre-Prep Learning Centre is a place where each child in its care can develop a love of learning. The College’s vision is ‘Becoming all God wants us to be.’

In order to set each child up for success in their formal schooling (when they begin Prep), we are aiming to familiarise our students with letter concepts in a friendly, fun and play based manner. Each week we will be learning about a different letter of the alphabet through story, song, play and craft. We will send home the ‘Rapid Revision’ book with a Letterland take home sheet outlining the key concepts and activities covered at Pre-Prep each week, as well as a number of optional activities you can do at home with your child to reinforce the learning taking place. These activities are NOT compulsory and they do not need to be returned upon completion. They are merely an extension of what we are doing in the Pre-Prep classroom and it is entirely optional.

Please remember every child is unique and all develop at a different pace. ‘Play’ is still by far the most important tool for young children to learn about language, science, mathematical concepts, and emotional & social development. We want to create an environment where learning can take place naturally and without pressure so that children can still enjoy and experience the fun of Pre-Prep. If you have any questions in regards to our program, please feel free to come and talk to us.

How it Works:
Step 1: Rapid Revision is sent home on the last day of your child’s week.
Step 2: Read the ‘take home’ sheet and do the activities (optional) about Letterland.
Step 3: Bring the Rapid Revision book back next week – the first day of your child’s week so that we can paste in the next take home sheet.

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The Kookaburras

During the last term, the Kookaburras have been fascinated in all things ‘Creepy Crawling’. During outside time we discovered egg shells, caterpillars, spiders and butterflies. This sparked so many learning opportunities!

We learnt about, and acted out, the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly. Through use of technology we were able to identify different insects and where they were located in the world. We read stories about insects and learnt about the different ways they protect themselves eg. camouflage. We looked at glass specimens and made note of their features. I wonder what path our learning will take this term?
While the law describes the role as ‘Authorised Officer’, the title can vary depending on a person’s specific job at the Regulatory Authority. In some jurisdictions, for example in Tasmania a person with the responsibilities of Authorised Officer is called an Education and Care Adviser. Whatever their job title, if Regulatory Authority staff are employed as Authorised Officers they can do all or some of these functions:

- Provide assistance and guidance to providers.
- Access applications for an approval.
- Rate services against the National Quality Standard.
- Investigate incidents and complaints.
- Monitor and enforce compliance.

How it works
The approach to performing these functions can differ according to each Regulatory Authority, for example, a different approach can apply depending on whether work is done at a head office or in regional teams. Authorised Officers require a range of skills, experience and qualifications to perform these functions.

ACECQA has a role under the National Law to determine the qualifications for Authorised Officers.

Reliable training and effective support of Authorised Officers is fundamental to achieving consistent implementation of the NQF. Authorised Officers who are carrying out quality assessments are required to complete a comprehensive training program and pass a reliability test before they are qualified to conduct an assessment and rating visit.

The training program does not differ from one jurisdiction to the next however individual states and territories regularly supplement the training program with additional specialty courses.

For more information on Authorised Officers, visit www.acecqa.gov.au/regulatory-authorities/authorised-officers/

You can read more about the assessment and rating process on ACECQA’s website.

National Quality Framework Hotspot

What is an Authorised Officer?
‘Authorised Officer’ describes a role many state and territory Regulatory Authority Staff hold so they can carry out functions and exercise powers under the Education and Care Services National Law. The creation of state-based Authorised Officers in Regulatory Authorities is an important part of the National Quality Framework (NQF) reforms. Prior to the NQF, the national regulator (NCAC) employed validators while states and territories employed a range of approvals and Compliance Officers - now both the assessment and compliance functions are carried out at a state level.

Save the Date - Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th May</td>
<td>Founders Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 10th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<td>Friday 15th - 22nd May</td>
<td>Under Eight's Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3rd - 4th June</td>
<td>Pre-Prep Class Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday (Public Holiday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2: PP1A &amp; PP2A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19th June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2: PP2B</td>
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