Play is a term used widely in early childhood literature when discussing how effective curriculum for young children is enacted. Play involves both cognitive and physical activity. Through play children bring thoughts into action and express ideas and realities in response to external stimuli or internal motivation. For children, play can be their way of looking out at the world, testing understanding of adult roles, exploring theories and predicting responsibilities. The early years curriculum here at St Mary MacKillop, reflects extensive research showing that early childhood programs encourage active learning, problem solving, effective communication, creativity, social adjustment and participation benefits children’s long-term success in education and citizenship.

The children participate in a variety of learning experiences within a variety of contexts for learning:
- Focused teaching and learning
- Play
- Real-life situations
- Investigations
- Routines and transitions

At St Mary MacKillop we aim to nurture students as active, capable and responsible learners. In order to do this, teachers provide opportunities for children to initiate their own learning and have involvement in planning, as well as participating in their classroom learning experiences. By negotiating with students, teacher and children arrive at a curriculum that is motivating, relevant and personally meaningful.

Our Prep program follows the subjects, content and guidelines set out in the Australian Curriculum.

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**PLAY IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF RESEARCH**

Albert Einstein