

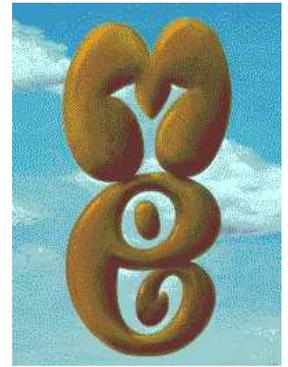
Y3 Early Years Extension (EYE) Program

"It's all About Perception"

Perception – "The way you think about or understand someone or something."

"The way that you notice or understand something using one of your senses."

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary



The Year Three Early Years Extension program has been designed to build on and extend the work done with our students in Year One and Year Two. We continue to use the Philosophy for Children (P4C) approach to further students' ability to ask and answer questions that encourage multiple and diverse responses and foster discussion where students build on one another's ideas. We also aim to advance their understandings and applications of the Habits of Mind. Further to this, we aim for students to develop their ability to look at the world from points of view other than their own. This represents a significant step forward in terms of child development theory as students will be encouraged to move from egocentric to more empathetic thinking.

The program is designed with an overall theme of 'Perception' and the way different people "see" things: both concretely and cognitively. Sub-themes have been developed and include 'Walking in Others' Shoes,' 'Look at it a Different Way,' and 'It's All Relative.'

Program content continues to draw on the General Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum: Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability, Literacy as a General Capability and Numeracy as a General Capability. The program is full of 'big ideas' and opportunities for 'flexible thinking' (one of the 16 Habits of Mind). The program utilises an engaging range of stimuli and activities for students to enjoy and learn from and is structured to enable the teachers to respond to the ideas, interests, nature and needs of each group.

As in the Year One and Year Two programs, the Habits of Mind (as dispositions necessary for success) will act as an umbrella and P4C will provide a forum for asking thought-provoking questions and engaging in empathetic listening and discussion. Familiar and new thinking tools will be utilised to extend the students' thinking.

In 2014 we trialled and adopted the extra dimension of Edmodo: a secure online classroom environment used internationally by millions of educators and students. This medium provides a platform for students to complete tasks; access recommended extra resources; prepare for sessions; and communicate with their teacher and class from home. We encourage EYE parents to access Edmodo *with* their children. Updates posted by the teacher allow parents to share in and extend what their children have covered in the extension sessions and provide opportunities for students to follow up on aspects of the program that most interest them. Information about how to access Edmodo is provided to students and parents at the beginning of the program.

Feedback for each student is provided after the program is complete. This typically includes a student self- assessment and a teacher comment.

If parents have any questions or comments about the program they are encouraged to contact their child's Early Years Extension teacher.

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