

Early Intensive Intervention Program for students with Autism in Kindy and Pre-Primary

This is a two year program that incorporates a range of strategies which are based on the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA).

ABA is an internationally recognised approach to understanding and changing behaviour and this intervention has proven to be beneficial for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

ABA incorporates Discrete Trial Training, independent work, small group work and structured play. The program focuses on shaping behaviour and improving social skills as well as creating clear communication systems.

The kindergarten students attend the centre for two days a week in Semester 1 and three days a week during Semester 2.

The pre-primary students attend the program two days a week and are enrolled in their local primary school where they attend for the other three days with agreement and collaboration between the two schools.

The aim is to deliver a program which is closely aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework, Kindy guidelines and the Australian Curriculum in order to facilitate a successful transition into the child's local primary school for Year 1.



Merriwa ESC

- Caters for the academic and behavioural needs of children with disabilities from 2-12 years.
- Is a primary school that cares about student achievements and in providing quality programs that are purposeful and authentic to the specific needs of each child.
- Has professional staff working in collaboration with various therapists and agencies to ensure success for all students.
- Expects high standards in teaching, learning and behaviour.
- Designs programs to enable all children to achieve according to their capability.
- Has small classes with a high staff to student ratio.
- Focuses on functional skills, social competencies, independent and self-regulation.
- Develops an individual education plan for each child in consultation with parents and therapists.



An Independent Public School
'Learning for Life'



**Dedicated and passionate staff
providing learning programs for
children with disability**

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Our Mission

Our aim is to provide purposeful and relevant learning programs through high quality instruction and evidence based strategies in order to support each individual towards meaningful participation in their community.

An outcomes focussed curriculum delivered in a supportive, safe, stimulating and inclusive learning environment ensures the development of academic, social, creative and physical skills while fostering independence in each child.

Our philosophy is to consider the needs of the individual child in every decision.



School Expectations

The Merriwa Schools work in collaboration to ensure that all students are given every opportunity to succeed. We believe that positive behaviour is a key element of an effective school. Both schools utilise the Friendly Schools Plus program, we teach social skills and strive to ensure students meet the school expectations.

Our whole school reward system is focussed around embracing the following expectations:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| I am respectful | I am friendly |
| I am positive | I achieve |

Our Programs

In addition to whole school literacy and numeracy programs and a thematic approach to integrate the curriculum, we have developed various special programs to provide a rich learning environment to accommodate the diverse needs of our students.

- **School Readiness Program:** For 2 and 3 year olds with special education needs.
- **Alternative, Augmentative Communication:** All students are provided opportunities to communicate using various tools and strategies.
- **Sensory Learning:** A designated room and a covered outdoor learning space are resourced to provide alternative areas for students to engage in their learning and sensory needs.
- **Fundamental Movement Program:** Students engage in regular sessions to develop gross motor and fine motor skills through play based learning and structured activities.
- **Music and Dance / Kidz Aerobics and Yoga:** Students engage in physical activities which stimulate creativity and develop self-regulation.
- **Hydrotherapy:** Students with high needs are able to access the hydrotherapy pool at Butler College.
- **Community Access / Life Skills:** Students access the local community to practise life skills in an authentic learning experience.
- **Incorporating Technology:** Learning through iPads and associated apps, communication devices, switch technology, interactive whiteboards, computers, cameras and appropriate academic online programs is widely embraced across the centre.

The Learning Environment

Merriwa Education Support Centre is located on the Merriwa Primary School site. Both schools are Independent Public Schools and work collaboratively as an inclusive campus. Our reputation as a welcoming and inclusive school is acknowledged in the community.

Students are enrolled with disabilities that range from Global Developmental Delay and mild intellectual disability to complex medical and physical disabilities. An increasing number of students with Autism enrol into our school for specialised support to access their learning program.

Collaboration with parents, staff, therapists, school psychologists, support workers and teachers enables each child to reach their potential in a learning environment that is consistent and nurturing.

We believe that all students can achieve when given the appropriate structures, and have the right to thrive. We work with the understanding that every situation provides an opportunity for learning.

