



The YWA

School ReadyY Program

Parent / Carer Information Pack



**School ReadyY
Program**



Introduction

The Y WA is dedicated to ensuring children and young people across Western Australia (WA) are given the opportunity to grow and flourish in body, mind, and spirit.

Research shows children’s brains develop connections faster in the first five years of life than in any other time in their life. Early learning centres (ELCs) can play a significant role in nurturing early literacy and oral language development, social emotional wellbeing and numeracy skills, and have the potential to improve school and life outcomes.

To create the strong foundations that children need, we have worked with experts in the field to develop **the Y WA School Ready Program**. We are very excited to be implementing this program in all 14 Y WA ELCs.

This booklet explains details of the program and what taking part in **the Y WA School Ready Program** means for you and your child.

What is the Y WA School Ready Program?

The Y WA School Ready Program

combines play-based early learning experiences with intentional teaching of pre-academic and social emotional skills to ensure that children will have the best start to their school journey.

Delivery of this exciting and unique program will provide valuable, engaging learning opportunities for children attending a Y WA ELC. The program is focused on preparing children to be 'school ready' for their pre-primary year of schooling by addressing three domains. These domains have been identified through research as critical for children's intellectual development, sociability and emotional health.

The Y WA School Ready Program addresses the following three domains:



Literacy & Language



Social & Emotional Wellbeing



Numeracy- STEM
(science, technology, engineering and mathematics)



Development of the Y WA School Ready Program

In 2023, in partnership with researchers from Knowledge Society, a pilot program was implemented at five Y WA ELCs.

Children who participated in **the Y WA School Ready Program** made significant gains in skills targeted by the program. It was very encouraging to note that some children were seen demonstrating their new skills at home as well as at the ELC!

This gives us great confidence that the program is effective in helping children develop the skills it is designed to teach.

Thank you to all the children, parents/families, and educators who contributed to the pilot process.

Delivery of the program commenced across all 14 Y WA ELCs in mid 2024.

The Literacy and Language domain of **the Y WA School Ready Program** has been developed specifically for the Y WA and complements other programs that support the development of children's social and emotional wellbeing, executive functioning and numeracy (STEM) skills.

What you can expect

The Y WA School Ready Program has been designed to fit in with the current timetable at the centre.

Existing routines and practices will continue but will be enhanced through a more intentional teaching program to ensure critical pre-academic and social emotional skills are embedded in the daily learning program and routines.

Parents and carers will be updated as the journey of implementing the social emotional wellbeing and numeracy domains of the program continues to progress.

Throughout 2026, the design and development phase of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing domain will be undertaken.

Through consultation with experts in the field, trialling of resources and activities, and the gathering of feedback from our educators and the children; we will ensure that the final program supports them to achieve the positive outcomes desired.

Families will be provided with on-going opportunities to learn more about **the Y WA School Ready Program** and how to support early childhood development at home.

Monitoring of early language development

We will be using the LanguageScreen tool (provided by OxEd and Assessment) to monitor the oral language skills of children.

LanguageScreen is a short, 10-minute, engaging activity for children which gives useful information about children's language skills to see if they need additional support.

We use LanguageScreen to help ensure that all children are supported to transition to school ready to flourish. LanguageScreen reports will be available to parents/carers on request and can be useful to share with classroom teachers when your child transitions to school.

To implement the assessment **the Y WA** needs to upload information about enrolled children to OxEd. OxEd's data privacy statement, detailing how data is collected and used, can be accessed via their website.

If you have any concerns, or do not wish your child to be assessed using LanguageScreen, please let your Centre Director know.

For more information about LanguageScreen please visit: www.oxedandassessment.com/languagecreen.

To view OxEd's data privacy statement please visit:

<https://oxedandassessment.com/au-nz/terms-and-policies/>

If you would like to opt-out of LanguageScreen please inform your Centre Director at your earliest convenience.

Ongoing research partners and commitment to quality

We will continue to partner with researchers in order to further build on our understanding of the ways in which **the Y WA School Ready Program** contributes to children's school readiness.

The ongoing research will also support Y WA educators to continue to develop their own knowledge and skills.

Collaborations that benefit our communities

The Y WA is excited to share news that throughout 2026 we will be continuing our partnerships with Australian universities and other training organisations.

Following the successful outcomes achieved through these partnerships in 2025, we are excited to see how these collaborations will further complement our School ReadY Program this year. University students and professionals, as well as those from other educational institutions will work with the children and staff to complete projects and practicums in our ELCs.

This initiative will enhance the developmental experiences of our young children while providing valuable, hands-on opportunities for aspiring educators and allied health professionals who are completing their studies under the guidance of qualified professionals.

Feedback from families

“My child has started kindergarten at school well above his peers in reading readiness as noted by his teachers.”

– Brabham ELC Parent

“The School ReadY Program has been such a positive part of our child’s experience at the ELC. It’s helped build their confidence, independence, and readiness for the next step into school. We’ve noticed real growth in their social skills, problem-solving, and overall enthusiasm for learning. We’re very grateful for the thoughtful, structured approach the program provides.”

– Baldivis ELC Parent

“My son wasn’t into books much, but now loves reading and we believe this is due to the encouragement from his educators.”

– Port Hedland ELC Parent

There will be ongoing opportunities provided for parents and families to access information related to **the Y WA School ReadY Program** as it is implemented across all Y WA ELCs. Our team is looking forward to working in partnership with families in supporting children to achieve positive, life-long outcomes.

Delivery of **the Y WA School ReadY Program** demonstrates our commitment to setting children up for success at school and beyond by building on the strong foundations that the program provides.

Implementation of this program at the Y WA ELCs provides an invaluable and exciting opportunity for generating positive social impact for our staff, the children attending, and their families.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your Centre Director with any questions you may have about **the Y WA School ReadY Program** or for further details about Y WA Early Learning Centres.



For more information visit:
ymcawa.org.au/what-we-do/child-care
or scan the QR code:

