



Wellesley

COLLEGE | YEARS 1-8

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMME



SCHOOL READINESS

Starting school is a big milestone, and at Wellesley, we're here to make it a joyful one. Our approach to school readiness goes beyond ABCs and 123s—because we know that young children learn best through play, curiosity, and meaningful connection. By nurturing social development and emotional wellbeing, we help lay the foundation for a lifetime of confident, happy learning.

Readiness begins not just in the classroom, but in every moment of the day—from the cheerful “Good Morning!” at the door to the friendships and discoveries that unfold throughout the day. We nurture happy, confident learners who are ready to embrace school and all that it brings.

The School Readiness Program is for our pre-schoolers in their final term before starting school to ensure that they are given the maximum opportunities to learn new skills, as well as refine existing abilities. All our learning is based on the Early Years Learning Framework of the New Zealand National Curriculum.

At Wellesley, our holistic School Readiness Programme is designed to build your child's confidence, independence, and love of learning—skills that create a strong foundation for success at school and beyond. Through thoughtful activities, the use of our extensive educational learning materials and carefully curated resources, we support your child's natural interests and curiosity, helping them to become active, motivated learners. And most importantly, we ensure it all happens in a joyful, play-based environment that makes learning feel like fun.

We focus on:

- **Independence skills**, the social and emotional self (the child must be able to socialise and cooperate with their peers and adults and be able to identify and communicate their feelings)
- **Routines** (these give children the emotional stability they need and are essential for good behaviour and attention span)
- **Teaching respect** for themselves and others
- Academic skills.

At your child's Learning and Development Meeting, his teacher will talk with you about his readiness for school and offer practical ways you can support him at home. We see this as a true partnership, working alongside your family to ensure a smooth, confident transition into school life.

The information in this booklet covers the seven elements which are combined in the School Readiness programme.



**When children play,
they are showing
what they have
learned and what
they are trying to
understand.**



1. MIND & BODY

Wellbeing is at the heart of our programme at Wellesley. We believe in nurturing healthy, active lifestyles from an early age. Through physical literacy, yoga, and mindfulness, we support your child's overall development—body and mind.

Our physical programme offers age-appropriate activities like soccer, yoga, and dance, all designed to build confidence, coordination, and joy in movement. Through our Readiness Programme, children develop key gross motor skills and grow into physically aware, healthy learners. At Wellesley, your child's wellness journey is supported every step of the way.

Physical Skills include:

- Fine motor skills
- Gross motor skills
- Self Help skills
- Healthy eating and nutrition

Children Have a Strong Sense of Well Being

- Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.
- Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.

Children have a Strong Sense of Identity

- Children feel safe, secure, and supported.
- Children develop their emerging autonomy, interdependence, resilience, and sense of agency.
- Children develop their emerging self-identities.
- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy, and respect.



2. SCHOLASTICS

| Literacy

Literacy is part of your child's world—from the stories they love to tell, to the conversations you share each day. At Wellesley, we recognise that literacy is more than just reading and writing. It's the foundation for confident communication and learning across every subject. That's why we embrace all forms of literacy and support your child to grow into a skilled, expressive, and thoughtful communicator.

| Literacy Skills include:

- Using conversations and words to communicate
- Reading (shared book experiences alongside the educator and peers).
- Writing (becoming familiar with letters and shapes)
- Listening
- Using digital technologies

Children are Confident and Involved Learners

- Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, and imagination.
- Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching, and investigating.
- Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.
- Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies, and natural and processed materials.

| Numeracy

This aspect of our curriculum focuses on your child's understanding of numbers and becoming numerate. We aim to educate your child and help them understand that mathematics is an extremely important part of life. We use activities and games to promote your child's number learning and use interest-based projects to facilitate positive mathematical learning.

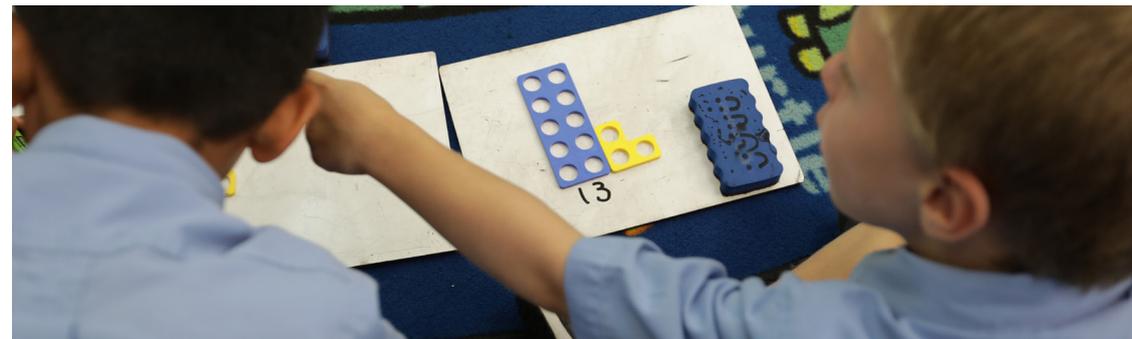
Numeracy skills are an extremely important part of development for your child. We believe that Numeracy skills include a variety of aspects, not just counting.

| Numeracy Skills include:

- Recognising numbers are used to count
- Using mathematical language
- Identifying mathematics in everyday life

Children are Effective Communicators

- Children begin to understand how symbols and patterns systems work.
- Children begin to sort, categorise, order, and compare collections and events and attributes of objects and materials, in their social and natural worlds.
- Children develop an understanding that symbols are a powerful means of communication, and that ideas, thoughts and concepts can be represented through them.



3. CREATIVE

At Wellesley, we celebrate your child's creativity. Through drawing, dancing, singing, acting, and more, children are encouraged to explore and express their unique talents.

We see the arts not only as joyful experiences but as powerful tools for communication, confidence, and connection. Creative expression supports key learning areas like literacy and numeracy, while offering emotional release and building independence. Our programme includes both thoughtfully planned and spontaneous opportunities in visual arts and movement, because inspiration can strike at any moment.

Creative Skills include:

- Exploring expressive, artistic, and creative abilities
- Learning through art, music, and movement

Children are Effective Communicators

- Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.
- Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.
- Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.
- Children use technology to explore ideas, find information, and show their thinking.



4. SELF-IDENTITY

Self-identity begins with your child discovering who they are—what they feel, think, and enjoy. At Wellesley, we create a nurturing environment where children are encouraged to express themselves, build meaningful friendships, and develop a strong sense of belonging with their teachers and the world around them.

We encourage boys to connect with nature and make positive, sustainable choices. At Wellesley, self-awareness is woven through the curriculum as we support each boy to grow into an independent, confident learner.

Self-Identity Skills include:

- Having care, empathy, and respect
- Becoming autonomous and independent
- Being confident and communicative
- Understanding oneself and having a sense of security

Children Have a Strong Sense of Identity

- Children feel safe, secure, and supported.
- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy, and respect.
- Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience, and sense of agency.
- Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities.
- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy, and respect.





5. COMMUNITY & CULTURE

Understanding the world is an important part of development for your child. We believe that having knowledge of the world and how their actions impact their environment will assist them to be caring and nurturing towards their environment and aware of others.

Our event calendar throughout the year celebrates, acknowledges, and encourages a range of mixed cultural events.

Community & Culture Skills

Children learn to relate to and contribute to their world by developing a strong sense of belonging, respecting diversity, and becoming socially responsible. They learn to value fairness, show care for the environment, and feel connected to their cultural group and wider community.



Preparing a child for school, is crucial because it lays the foundation for their academic, social, and emotional success. It's not just about academic skills, but also about developing social-emotional maturity, independence, and communication abilities.



6. EXPLORATION

Your child's exploration is a powerful source of learning!

At Wellesley, we nurture your child's natural curiosity, encouraging them to explore their world, ask questions, and find joy in discovery. Their sense of wonder becomes the spark for meaningful, connected learning.

Through an inquiry-based approach, our educators use each child's interests and questions as a starting point for deeper learning. When children are genuinely engaged, they're not just absorbing knowledge, they're actively constructing it. This makes learning more enjoyable, relatable, and lasting.



7. THINKING SKILLS

The jobs your children will be applying for in 20 years' time may not exist today.

This makes teaching our children a challenge; however, we can teach and encourage them to be great thinkers and learners, truly giving them the best start to their future.

The thinking skills component offers a structured approach to your child's cognitive and intellectual development.

We use intentional teaching times to hold meaningful learning experiences, and we use purposeful materials such as puzzles, Lego, concentration and memory exercises.

TRANSITIONING TO 'BIG SCHOOL'

Starting Wellesley "Big School" is a proud milestone—not just for your child, but for you too. As they take their first steps into formal education, it's important they feel excited and positive about what lies ahead.

Our early childhood educators have come together to share helpful tips that can support a smooth and confident transition into primary school. If you ever have questions or need guidance, we're always here and ready to help.

Before your child attends primary school:

- Encourage your child to self-help, dress, clean and feed themselves.
- Speak with your child about "big school" and how grown up they are.
- When talking about "big school" speak positively so your child will adapt to your attitude.
- When dropping off, driving, or walking past the school make it known and exciting that that is where your child will be going soon.
- Ensure you and your child know our school; this helps them settle and become familiar.
- If possible, make friendships with other children of the same age, so your child recognises a familiar face on their first day.

Going to school is an exciting time for your child's life. Together with Wellesley and the School Readiness programme you can make the transition from preschool to Wellesley "big school" easy and exciting.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR LUNCH TIME:

Lunchbox Tips

- Freeze a water bottle then put it into the lunchbox, this will keep all the food fresh and cool.
- Label all of your child's belongings
- Pack food your child is used to and enjoys
- Pack morning tea and lunch separately to avoid confusion.
- Pre-cut fruit and veggies if needed, especially grapes.
- Do not over pack the lunch box, your child might feel pressured into eating all of it.
- Remember to pack a spoon if you put yoghurt in .

Nutritious Foods to pack

- Small pieces or cut up fruit, rice crackers etc
- Sandwiches cut in half
- Small yoghurts
- Vegetable sticks
- Cheese sticks
- Muesli bars
- Wholemeal muffins
- Unsalted Popcorn

Please avoid

- Chips
- Nuts
- Lollies
- Chocolate
- Cake
- Chocolate biscuit
- High sugar content foods



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Children who enter school with school ready foundational skills are better equipped to engage with learning, build positive relationships, and adapt to the new environment.