Investigations

Play- Based Learning in our Junior School

We strongly believe that school should be joyful and that play is a child's work. For over 15 years, here at Elwood Primary we have committed to Investigations as an integral part of our Junior school for our Prep to Grade 2 students.

Three mornings a week, Investigations occurs in all our junior classes. On these days the students truly skip into school as do our parent volunteers. Our teachers intentionally plan and setup various learning areas in their classrooms and shared spaces based on our learning topics, student needs and interests.

Teachers work closely with **Focus Children**, who have the opportunity to be the star of the show. Speaking in front of their peers and presenting their ideas and creations at the start and end of the session. As a Focus Child, the teacher invests additional one on one time with the child, firstly building a strong connection and then scaffolding personalised learning.

The **Reporter and Photographer** also get a specific role for the session. Linked to the class learning intentions or their own needs, teachers plan tasks for them to complete with their peers. They share and often link to Literacy and Maths lessons later on that day.

The most important part is the **INVESTIGATING.** Students get to choose how they spend their time, what they learn and do on their own or with their peers. The teachers engage with the students and add provocations and directions towards learning.

All play involves learning and it is the teacher's role to identify and name this learning for the students. The social-emotional and relational focus and development that occurs during Investigations is why we truly believe in this play-based approach at our school.

Come and see Investigations for yourself, you are sure to love it as much as our teachers and students do.

Work in Progress
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