

Finding peace of mind about your child's development

It can be reassuring to know that your child is on track at the right time. We often encourage parents to share their child's progress with others in the hope that we can see exactly how well our child is learning and growing.

Our Early Learning Centre has taken the guess work and uncertainty out of monitoring your child's learning and development by developing their very own portfolio system to provide all the information you need to know about your child's learning and growth.

A common theme that staff at Yarra Valley Grammar Early Learning Centre encounter with families relates to whether their child is on track for school readiness. To help answer these concerns, the staff have spent several years developing a range of methods to inform parents about their child's learning progress throughout the year. The information is shared through the portfolio that is developed for each child during the year they are enrolled at the centre.

As well as each child having their own portfolio, the Centre also offers structured teacher interviews and written reports that, together with the portfolio, provide families with a comprehensive picture of their child's development.

The Centre staff realise that it is important to ensure that each child is individually accommodated and planned for, and that their portfolio is reflective of what they can do and what is expected at that age. The staff understand that each child is unique in regards to their learning and that within each group of children, there are different abilities and learning styles. The staff do not compare children's development. Families at the Centre are therefore encouraged not to compare their child to another, but to see each child as an individual.

The Centre understands that most parents are keen to know what their child is doing each day when they are at home. The Centre also provides information to parents about their child's progress. This information is based on the child's learning and development. In addition, these additional methods allow us to show families how educational outcomes and learning is occurring.

The portfolios, as well as the additional information provided through other communication methods, are wonderful mementos of the year but provide valuable information for the teachers to plan and reflect on what's next for the child.

Feedback from past and present families shows the value and worth they see in their child's portfolio in helping them to understand what their child is truly capable of and how they can best support and challenge them.

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