

## EARLY START PRESCHOOL

### ALL ABOUT US:

The Early Start first opened its doors to the children of Mayfield in 1995. Over the years, many of those who attended Early Start themselves have returned to us with their own children. It is a ONE YEAR programme, funded by the Department of Education and usually attended by children for the year before they begin primary school.

It is staffed by a primary school teacher (Susan O' Neill) and a childcare worker (Mary O' Mahony), both of whom have many years of experience working with young children.

Our aim is to provide a bright, warm, safe, stimulating, structured and caring environment where each child is respected and cherished and given many and varied learning opportunities to help her/him reach their full potential as active learners .

Parents, guardians, extended family and members of the wider community are positively welcomed in Early Start.

Our curriculum aims and learning goals are taken from AISTEAR (the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework). Play is organised into the play areas recommended in the AISTEAR framework (both within the classroom and outside in the wider school environment). We also refer to the Early Start Curriculum Guidelines in our planning. Our learning objectives are achieved through play and hands on, meaningful experiences. We aim to give special attention to the children's language development and communication skills as well as supporting their cognitive, creative, emotional, moral, physical, social and spiritual learning and development.

We have strong connections with Scoil Mhuire agus Eoin. Children who attend Early Start transition well to its junior infants.

### OUR OPENING TIMES:

Early Start usually operates two sessions per day, five days a week- morning and afternoon.

The MORNING session runs from 8.50 a.m. to 11.20 a.m.

The AFTERNOON session runs from 11.50 a.m. to 2.20 p.m.

### NOTE:

Children attending Early Start should be 3 years old before the September that they start with us.

They should not be older than 4 years 7 months – department guidelines are strict in this area.

Application forms and guidelines are available [here](#), from the Early Start room or the main school office.

Appointments to call to see us can be made through the main school office.

ALL WELCOME!