



## Tips and Ideas to Prepare your Child for School

- Watch the YouTube clip "My Day at Kindergarten" and discuss how exciting it will be to start school. <https://youtu.be/zh3h7galXDU>
- Buy your child's school shoes ahead of time and encourage your child to wear them around the house. Many children go barefoot during summer or wear open shoes. Enclosed school shoes feel very different and can rub the first few times they are worn. Velcro shoe fastenings are recommended for students in Kindergarten.
- Buy your child's school food containers, pack them with food and head outside. When it is snack or lunchtime encourage your child to open the containers by him/herself. Do the same with a drink bottle.
- Bubblers at all schools are currently out of use. Make sure your child brings a water bottle to school every day.
- Label everything your child is bringing to school, even school shoes.
- Take your child to use toilets outside the home and boys need to become familiar with using urinals.
- Teach your child to wash their hands thoroughly using soap.
- Encourage your child to pack their school bag the day or night before school, rather than leave it until the morning as it can be a rush.
- Go past the school regularly and point it out.
- Share good memories of your own days at school.
- Be positive about school, teachers and learning.
- Talk about the different kinds of activities your child will take part in during school.
- Talk about friendships and how to be a good friend.
- Take your child with you to your local library and help them choose books.
- Encourage your child's curiosity by asking questions and encouraging questions in return.

### Important skills for starting school you can help with:

#### Developing Language Skills:

##### **Encourage and support your child to:**

- Talk to other people about familiar things
- Ask and answer simple questions
- Make needs known eg asking to go to the toilet, letting the teacher know if they are cold/hot or not feeling well
- Follow simple instructions
- Share books for enjoyment or for looking at pictures and talk about them
- Identify pictures in books, magazines, on television or signs
- Join in singing familiar songs

### **Developing Writing Skills:**

#### **Encourage and support your child to:**

- Use a variety of tools to draw, scribble or write with (eg pens, pencils, textas, paintbrushes, sticks in the dirt)
- Build finger strength and dexterity by playing with playdough, buttering their toast, using a knife and fork, playing with blocks, kneading homemade pizza or bread dough, using tongs or tweezers to pick up small objects such as a scrunched piece of paper, confetti or beads, mist the plants in the garden with a spray bottle.
- Write their own name (use a capital letter only at the beginning)
- Write letters from the alphabet and numbers

### **Developing Mathematics Skills:**

#### **Encourage and support your child to:**

- Recognise numbers
- Use mathematical language (eg many, a lot, less, more)
- Find things in a group that are different (eg pegs)
- See the differences in shapes
- Tell the differences between opposites eg up and down, over and under, day and night
- Count up to ten

### **Developing Personal and Social Skills:**

#### **Encourage and support your child to:**

- Use the toilet independently
- Say their full name and own address
- Finish a task and tidy up afterwards
- Try to play cooperatively with other children – share and take turns
- Try to sit still and listen to a story
- Try to share an adult's attention with several other children
- Try to participate in imaginative play

### **Develop Physical Skills:**

#### **Encourage and support your child to:**

- Use scissors safely
- Enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor play
- Put on and take off jumpers independently
- Put on and take off shoes and socks independently (Velcro is the way to go!)
- Blow their own nose independently
- Use building blocks when they play
- Open and close food containers and drink bottle independently