

# Preparing Children to Start School



Below are some ideas that may support children in preparing them to start school. These are just examples and certainly not a 'must do' list before starting school.

## General Self-Care:

- Going to the toilet independently
- Placing belongings inside own bag and zipping bag up
- Putting on and taking off shoes, socks, jumpers
- Opening and closing containers, snap lock bags, zips
- Discussions around lunch food / snack food – could engage in a sorting activity

## Social Interactions:

- Turn taking and sharing - this can be done through games such as memory, go fish, dice games. Teaching children that they may not always win is helpful. Acknowledging that it is nice to win but it is also nice to congratulate others when they win.
- Team building activities – set up tasks where children have to work with each other to get a task done.
- Kindness activities – provide children with the name of a friend and they need to do something kind for them sometime during the day.
- In pairs share a stimulus (e.g. book, something from a mystery bag, something they find in the room) have children discuss what they can see, feel, know about the stimulus
- Packing away items they are no longer using
- Practising asking for help

## Literacy Activities:

- Practise writing their name with correct letter formation (this will require teacher to watch children write and show where to start when forming letters)
- Recognising their name – play a name hunt game. Students are given the names of other students, they go and hide them then they have to find their own name.
- Making their name with magnetic letters
- Go on a letter hunt around the centre – they do not need to know the names or sounds of letters but recognising that it is letter is helpful. Wearing a detective hat or having a magnifying glass can make the experience more exciting for children
- Discuss familiar icons/symbols (e.g. crossing road sign)
- **Listening activities** – go on a sound hunt, students predict prior to going on the hunt what they might hear then go outside and discuss the sounds that they hear.
- Play the whisper game where children sit in a circle and they whisper a word around the circle.
- Read a text and children recall something that happened.
- Ask children to recall what their friend said for 'news'
- Play Simon Says

- Read rhyming stories and listen to rhyming songs - support children to recognise words that rhyme. Once they have the rhyme concept replace rhyming words with additional rhyming words that the children come up with
- Lots of singing with rhyming
- Lots of reading – before reading ask the students what they think the book might be about, during the reading can stop and ask what might happen next, at the end what did they like/dislike about the book/character, they can then draw/paint/record a vid talking of a part of the book

#### **Numeracy Activities:**

- Sing songs with forward/backward number sequence (e.g. five little ducks)
- Counting object – i.e. how many children in their class, how many boys/girls, how many bags in the lockers, how many shoes,
- Discussing small amounts (e.g. two stacks of cups, which one is bigger/smaller)
- Discussing what happens when items are added or taken away to a small group
- Depending if children have letter and number knowledge – hide letters / numbers in shaving cream and students sort into letter and numbers piles
- Sharing items – set up toys at a picnic, children share out plastic food, focus on one-by-one sharing and that sharing is equal
- Draw a hop scotch – as children jump they say numbers in order
- Set up hoops – as children jump through each hoop they count
- Using measurement language – big/little, large/small, heavy/light, long/short, tall/short, wide/narrow
- Measurement – using their bodies measure how many of their bodies from one place to another
- Water play – lots of containers let children explore pouring from one container to another promote language use i.e. I need 3 cups to fill up this container

Some websites that may be helpful:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/going-to-school/starting-primary-school/starting-kindergarten>

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/play-learning>

[https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/at-child-care/child-care-ratings/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI7M-VuO2z6wIVmX8rCh0hCwHXEAMYASAAEgJ9AfD\\_BwE](https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/at-child-care/child-care-ratings/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI7M-VuO2z6wIVmX8rCh0hCwHXEAMYASAAEgJ9AfD_BwE)

<http://resourcesforearlylearning.org/educators/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/abckids/early-education/language-and-literacy/>

<https://wonderopolis.org/>

<http://disneyjunior.disney.com.au/>