



TRANSITION FROM KINDERGARTEN TO SCHOOL





Dear Parents,

Starting school is an exciting part of every child's life.

Teachers and parents can work together to make this experience a rewarding one.

This booklet outlines how you can best help your child make the transition from kindergarten to school.

We hope this information may answer questions you may have about school life at Specimen Hill Primary School. If there are any other queries that have not been addressed, please feel free to make an appointment with the school.

Kind regards,

Julian Regan
Early Years Coordinator

Doug Jones
Principal



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As the end of the year draws nearer, you, as parents, of children attending four year old kindergarten, have the prospect of school before you. There are many decisions to be made about school but one of the most important is whether or not your child is **ready** to enter the first Primary School year of a long 'educational' life.

For children to be happy and to learn at school there are some skills that children need to have. It is important to remember that all children are unique and grow and develop at individual rates. With encouragement, time and opportunity, children will develop the skills of formal learning

Social Skills

Social skills are very important for successful transition. Children who can relate to a range of people - both adults and peers will cope well with the social aspect of school.

Your child should be able to ...

- *Communicate needs and interact with others*
- *Listen to the teachers and others*
- *Share and take turns*
- *Join and participate in a group*
- *Play and work co-operatively with others*

Emotional skills

At school, children have to cope with their feelings in a variety of situations, often they have to cope with these feelings independently.

If your child is confident when separating from you, it makes going to school easier for both you and your child. Children gain security from routine and your child may feel more confident if he/she knows what the day will be like.

It may help to talk about

- How long the day will be
- The difference between lunchtime and playtime.
- When and where you will pick them up
- If your child is to walk to school it is beneficial to walk to school a number of times to ensure he/she knows where to go. If your child is able to travel by bus it may be useful to run through that routine also.
- Talk about the sorts of things they might do at school and the different people they will meet, such as the Principal, the Librarian, etc.

Communication skills

Communication skills are also a pre-requisite for successful transition.

Your child should be able to:

- Verbally communicate needs to others
- Interact (verbally) with other children and adults
- Follow instructions
- Take turns in talking and listening

Preparing for the First Day at School

Before commencing school it would be helpful if your child is competent with the following:-

Does your child know:

- *Their full name?*
- *To recognise their written name?*
- *How to put things away?*
- *To be responsible for their own belongings?*
- *How to dress and undress themselves?*
- *How to attend to their own toilet needs and wash their hands after visiting the toilet?*
- *How to use a tissue or handkerchief properly?*
- *How to open their own lunch box or drinker?*
- *How to unwrap lunch which has been wrapped in gladwrap? (It's a good idea to wrap food loosely, much easier for little fingers to unwrap).*
- *A separate box for lunch and afternoon playlunch is also a good idea.*

What to bring to School

1. A school bag, large enough to hold your child's lunch box, drinker, reader cover and library books borrowed from the school library.
2. A sunsmart hat (clearly named). Wearing of sunsmart hats during terms one and four is compulsory.
3. A roomy smock (clearly named) with long sleeves and back opening will help protect clothing during art activities.
4. Library bag to protect books borrowed from the Library.
5. Name articles of clothing (lost property can be returned to owner if article of clothing is clearly named). Remember, texta washes out and is hard to read after a couple of washes.

Healthy Food

We request that all parents make a conscious effort to pack a selection of healthy food for lunches and playlunch. Soft drinks are not allowed. All children are encouraged to have a drink bottle of water on their tables at all times.

Attendance



Please make sure that your child is at school **at least 10 minutes** before the 9.00am start. This allows your child plenty of time to organize him/herself without becoming flustered and allowing a more **settled** start to the day.

Once your child is settled, **please do not wait about**. Our teachers are experienced and will overcome any difficulties which may arise. An upset child is usually smiling by the time you reach the gate.

It is important for your child's learning that he/she attends school regularly. Unnecessary absences mean that your child misses out on vital learning experiences.

Illness

Home is the place for a sick child. When a child is taken ill or injured, parents will be contacted as soon as is possible to collect their sick or injured child from school. When a parent or an emergency contact person cannot be reached, the school will continue to exercise care and supervision.

All absences from school must be accompanied by a note giving the reasons for the child's absence.

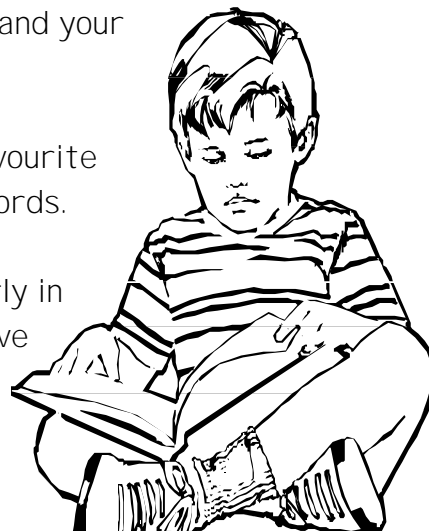
Reading and Writing

Reading

When reading to or hearing your child read, always give them your close attention and display an interest in the story. Make sure that the TV is turned off, with no other distractions, and that you and your child are comfortable.

Encourage your child to read/tell you about their favourite part of the story and retell the story in their own words.

It is important to encourage good reading habits early in your child's life. This assists them in developing a love of books and stories and strategies for successful reading.



Writing

Your children usually progress through various stages of development when learning to write:

- Provide a variety of pencils/pens and paper
- Encourage your child to write at home (beginning with scribble)
- Praise all attempts
- Don't let your child feel a failure
- Be interested

Please visit our school during 'transition' time with your child, as Specimen Hill Primary School is a very open school where parents are always welcome. Your child will benefit greatly by becoming involved in the 'transition' program, feeling more comfortable with the school environment and ultimately settling well when beginning school next year.



Reading Skills

Learning to read well is a complex task which usually takes several years to master. Many children need nearly a year of schooling before they seem to 'get the idea' of reading.

Parents can help by doing things suggested below and by reassuring the child, if necessary, that generally the task becomes gradually easier.

- *Talk to your children so that they learn many words; absorb the idea that different meanings are conveyed by the way in which words are ordered.*
- *Draw your child's attention to signs, advertisements and writing on packets and tell your child what is written on them.*
- *Point out differences in symbols, which lead to differences in meaning.*
- *Parents, grandparents, brothers or sisters read to the child.*

When children are read to they can learn many things. They become aware that:-

- *Meaning can be obtained from print and what they read will make sense.*
- *We start at the top of the page and move from left to right.*
- *The written language of books is often different from the language that is spoken.*

IN THE PREP YEAR SOME OF THE THINGS WE DO ARE:

- *Learn the names and sounds of the letters of the alphabet.*
- *Develop an interest in reading and a love of books.*
- *Organise pictures to illustrate a sequence of events.*
- *Match the starting letter of a word with the object referred to*
- *Identify sounds of letters in words*
- *Read books with simple repetitive language patterns*
- *Have shared reading experiences ie. "Big Books"*
- *Use pictures for clues to the meaning of the text*
- *Have a daily silent reading time*



Mathematics Skills

Mathematics in the Primary School involves:

- Counting
- Learning to add, subtract, multiply and divide
- Measuring
- Telling the time
- Problem solving
- Shapes and space

Before the children can work with symbols such as 10, 84, +, -, =, they need to understand the ideas behind them. Children who come to school understanding terms such as more, less, the same as, bigger, smaller and how many, are prepared for early mathematics and should easily move to formal work.

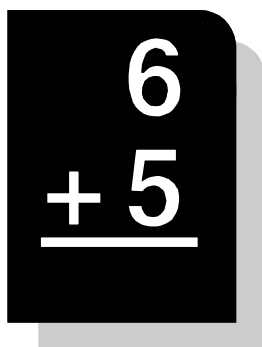
Early preparation for mathematics occurs when parents or others:-

- Help children to count a few objects such as number of plates to put on the table or the number of buttons on a cardigan.
- Talk to children about time (for example – “How many sleeps until your next birthday?” “Dad will be home in half an hour – when that TV program is finished.”)
- Let children find out what they can buy with a few coins.
- Talk to children as they use building toys (for example – “Can you make it bigger?” “Is that as tall as the first one you made?”)
- Let children play with water sand, dough, etc, so that they learn how much will fit into different sized containers.

In the Prep year some of the things we do are:-

- Develop an understanding of concepts (eg. Along, through, under, behind, across, small, narrow, wide, tall, short, thick, thin etc.)
- Identify shapes (eg. Square, circle, triangle, rectangle)
- Recognise and write numerals to 10.
- Use ordinal number names from first to tenth
- Learn the days of the week in order.
- Recognise o'clock (eg. 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock)

- Count by 1's, 2's and 10's.
- Complete and make patterns
- Sort, classify and order objects
- Match objects from different groups (one to one correspondence)
- Match groups of objects with numerals to 10
- Share things into equal groups



Closing Comments

The wellbeing of your child is of primary importance at Specimen Hill. If there are any concerns relating to your child's health, both physical or emotional or family issues that are impacting on your child's effectiveness to learn at school, don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or the Assistant Principal.

You and your child are now entering a very enjoyable and interesting phase of their lives. We hope that you enjoy this journey as much as your child does and join in the learning partnership between home and school.

We welcome you into the school as a parent, and invite you to participate in the many activities, committees and learning opportunities that the school offers. Our partnership is extremely important and your support for the school is appreciated.