

Starting school

How can I support my child?

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Welcome

Congratulations! Your precious child is about to enter the next stage of their education and begin primary school.

The purpose of this guide is to offer suggestions about how you can help your child as they move from home, and their early learning service, to primary school. Each page offers tips and ideas for supporting your child to happily and successfully begin primary school.

A good start at school will make a big difference for your child and your family.

As they start school, children's happiness, wellbeing and learning depend on good relationships, and communication between the child, family and teachers. When your child's culture is recognised, valued and visible in the classroom, it helps them to feel welcome and that they belong at their new school.

Key ideas about transitions to school

For children, the most important parts of starting school are friendships, peer relationships and their relationship with their teacher.

Your relationship with your child's teachers is also important for helping your child get a good start at school.

“ Once a child builds trust and the teachers wrap their arms around that child, that's when they'll flourish and have the ability to grow to their best potential. ”



Getting ready

Before starting school there are some things you can do to support your child to succeed at school.

Here are some important skills you can help your child to learn.



Communication skills: encourage your child to say what they need and want.



Social skills: give your child opportunities to make friends and relate to other children.



Confidence: encourage your child to give new things a try and practise at home.



Self-care: make sure your child can dress themselves and look after their clothing. Encourage them to ask for help when they need it.

The following are tips on how to get ready for your child's transition to school.



- Give your child lots of opportunities to find out about school before they start. Help them to get to know other children who will also be going to their school.
- Encourage your child to feel proud of their culture.
- Talk positively with your child about starting school.
- Talk to your early learning teachers about your child's move to school.
- If needed, find someone in your family or community who can translate information for you.
- Think about the school your child might attend. Enrol your child early, when they turn 4 years old.
- Visit the school's website to find information about the school.
- Meet with the school principal or a teacher to ask any questions you may have.
- Take your child to visit their school and teacher. At least 2 or 3 visits are helpful.
- If your child has older siblings, friends or cousins at school, encourage them to talk about school with your child.

Starting school

As your child starts school, you can help them by talking to your child's teacher.



Share information about your child's religion, habits, interests, strengths, challenges and health with the teacher.



Share your child's early learning centre profile book with their teacher.



Foster your child's friendships with other children.



Sharing information

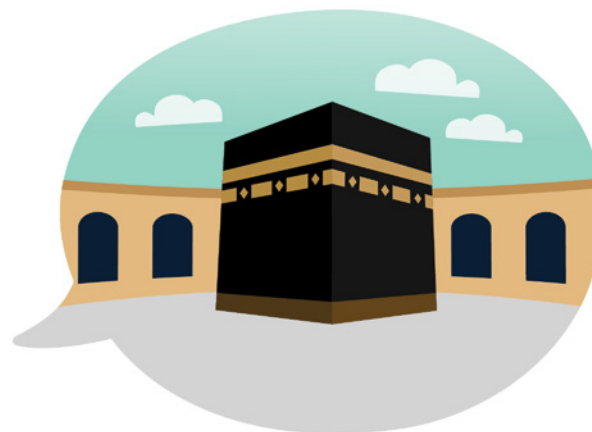
Sharing information about your culture and faith with the class teacher is an important part of helping your child.

You can share:

- ✓ important practices in your religion
- ✓ traditions and festivals in your family
- ✓ what is culturally appropriate and inappropriate for your child.

Let the school know the best ways to communicate with you and your family.

Talking with other school parents is a good way to stay informed about school life.



How to be involved in the school community

Getting involved in school life is a great way to support your child's transition.

- Go to school events, celebrations, and cultural festivals.
- Volunteer to help at school with gardening, reading, cultural events, or teacher support.
- Look at and use online platforms that the school uses.
- Spend time in the classroom and school.
- Join or set up a PTA group.
- Stand for election to your child's school board.

Enjoy this next part of your child's learning journey!



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