



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NSW

Key information for enrolling your child in a NSW Public School can be found at:

[www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au) & [www.schoolatoz.com.au](http://www.schoolatoz.com.au)

## ENROLLING YOUR CHILD

Children who turn five years of age before 31st July, may be enrolled at the beginning of the school year. Enrolment forms are available at the school office and should be completed in the year prior to enrolment. Children who turn five years of age after 31st July, must enrol for the beginning of the following school year. Kindergarten Orientation Days are organised (in October/November of each year) to introduce the children to the classroom situation and to provide the parents with information.

**Proof of Age:** When enrolling, evidence of date of birth must be shown to the school. (birth certificate, passport). The school will make a copy of all documents provided.

**Immunisation:** The Public Health Act (1992 Amendment) requires parents of children starting in Kindergarten class to provide an immunisation certificate at the time of school enrolment. You can get an immunisation certificate from your doctor.

## AGE CONSIDERATIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Starting school is a major step in a child's life. A happy and successful first year promotes a positive attitude towards school and learning. Any decision about whether or not to start your child should focus on their needs and readiness. If you are in doubt, speak to your child's preschool teacher or make an appointment to speak with the principal.

### Starting Younger

A younger child:

- can take longer to adjust to the demands of the five day school week;
- can often become tired and not as responsive;
- matures later physically. This is more apparent in high school - where peer pressure and "looks" play a big part in a child's life;
- may compare their performance with other children in the class, even though those children may well be a year or more older;
- can sometimes be more emotionally and physically mature than many older children;
- would have a "year up the sleeve" if they need to repeat because of illness, family travel or moves;
- may not be in graded classes in future years.

### Starting Older

An older child:

- is usually more mature and confident;
- is more able to cope with the demands of the five day school week;
- is more likely to have the energy needed to be a responsive learner;
- has more life experience;
- is usually more physically, emotionally and socially mature;
- can gain status with their peers because of their maturity.

## **PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL**

- Make sure your child can dress themselves and make their needs known. Encourage them to learn to tie shoelaces. Removable outer clothing (including shoes) should be easily identified by the child.
- The child should not be dependent on "baby talk". Talking and reading to your child daily, as well as teaching nursery rhymes and songs, helps to develop language skills.
- Help your child to meet challenges by allowing them, within limits, to fend for themselves and learn that success usually requires effort.
- Let your child see that you have faith in their teachers.
- Try to get up early enough to give your child a calm and ordered start to the day. A good breakfast is essential to their energy and concentration.

### **Does your child:**

- know their name, address and telephone number well enough to repeat them if necessary?
- know the safest way to and from school?
- know the safety rules of our busy streets?
- know the dangers of loitering on the way home, visiting friends without permission or going anywhere with strangers?
- always have a handkerchief / tissue and know how to use it?
- know that hands should be washed before meals and after visiting the toilet?
- know how to use and flush the toilet (or a urinal for boys) without help?
- know how to tie their shoelaces?
- put away playthings and materials after using them?
- take off and put on outer clothing without help?

## **HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD ADJUST ONCE STARTED AT SCHOOL**

- Talk to your child about school where they will meet new friends, play games, sing and make things.
- Teach your child how to put on and do up shoes.
- Label clearly, with full name, all possessions your child will take to school.
- Send your child to school on time each and every day.
- Allow your child to stay with relatives, or friends, for short periods, so that they will accept the fact that it is not always possible to be with parents.
- Give your child simple duties around the home. This will help foster confidence and reliability in the performance of small tasks and skills.
- Encourage your child by admiring work when brought home. Give work and paintings a place of honour.
- Select suitable stories, picture books, DVDs, television programs and websites for your child.
- Be sure your child knows the safety rules for our busy streets and show your child how to safely cross the street.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO READ AFTER STARTING SCHOOL?

- Read aloud to your child daily. Encourage them to listen, ask questions and discuss the story.
- Read poems including nursery rhymes and nonsense rhymes.
- Give your child simple verbal directions. You can help your child to listen carefully and remember what he/she has heard if you ask them to perform two or three small tasks in a particular sequence.
- Look at magazine pictures or illustrations in favourite picture books. Talk and ask questions about them.
- Allow your child to make scrapbooks from old magazines, e.g. cut out all the insects, babies...
- Encourage him/her to draw pictures and tell stories about them.
- Visit the local library and let your child explore the great variety of books.
- Complete picture puzzles (at first simple ones with large pieces).
- Uses construction blocks. Ask your child to sort them according to colour, size and shape.
- Keep your child supplied with a variety of books with large black type. Encourage him/her to read to you and help with any words the child does not know.
- Encourage your child to read/recognise labels and signs in the environment.
- After you have read aloud or told a story, ask your child to tell you a story. If they cannot think of one ask them to repeat a favourite nursery rhyme.
- At night in bed is a quiet relaxed atmosphere for a child to read, and therefore a bed lamp is often a useful gift!

Above all, praise your child for their efforts.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO START SCHOOL

School bag:	A light strong, back-pack – big enough for a large picture book, jumper and lunchbox. Put name on the outside (but where a stranger could not read the name while child is wearing it), and name, address and telephone number inside.
Rainwear:	A yellow raincoat and hat, with child's name on both, to be kept in school bag at all times. No umbrellas please.
Lunch box and drink bottle:	Name on both. Ensure your child is able to open and close the lunch box and drink bottle and fit them in their school bag.
Smaller food containers:	Container for the fruit for the daily "fruito" break. Another container with a light snack for recess.
Painting shirt:	An old shirt or coverall. Named.
Library bag:	Strong cloth bag, big enough to store a large book.
Bus pass:	In a bus pass holder firmly attached to or sewn onto the school bag.

HAVE FUN AT SCHOOL AND ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE