

Helpful Skills for Starting School

Here is a sample of skills suitable for most children starting Kindergarten. Starting school may be just a little easier if they have these skills. Encourage your child to attempt the things mentioned below, but don't worry if your child can't do all of them. Talk to the Kindergarten teacher, and together you can support and assist your child's learning.

Language

- ☆ talks to other people about familiar objects and events
- ☆ answers and asks simple questions
- ☆ makes needs known (toilet)
- ☆ follows simple instructions
- ☆ uses books for enjoyment or for looking at pictures (knows how to turn pages carefully)
- ☆ identifies pictures in books, magazines, on television or video
- ☆ uses a variety of things (pens, pencils, textas, paint brushes, sticks in dirt) to draw, scribble or to write
- ☆ joins in familiar songs and nursery rhymes
- ☆ can write own name (important)

Mathematics

- ☆ recognises that numbers can be used to count (use pegs, knives and forks)
- ☆ uses words like "all, many, a lot, more, less"
- ☆ identifies things in a group that are different (sorting: red, yellow pegs)
- ☆ sees differences in shapes
- ☆ differentiates between opposites- up,down; fast,slow; under,over
- ☆ can follow directions with position (get me.. from the bottom shelf)

Personal/Social Skills... probably the most important!

- ☆ Can use a toilet independently (pull up pants, tuck in shirts, know what a urinal is for, can change shoes and socks if there is an accident!)

- ☆ can say and identify own name (the address is an added bonus)
- ☆ adapts to unfamiliar settings and experiences (need to be left occasionally)
- ☆ plays cooperatively with other children....must understand what share means
also taking turns
- ☆ can sit still and listen to a story
- ☆ is curious about the world (offer as many experiences as possible eg. train, bus, ferry, zoo)
- ☆ can share an adult's attention with other children (if they interrupt you, they'll interrupt us)
- ☆ can finish a task/game and tidy up afterwards (always put rubbish in a bin)
- ☆ participates in imaginative play

Physical Skills

- ☆ can use scissors to cut along a straight line (left handedness requires left handed scissors!)
- ☆ enjoys a variety of indoor and outdoor play (too much T.V or computer is not helpful to child)
- ☆ can put on and take off jumpers, shoes....tying laces is extra special!!!
- ☆ watch how their pencil is held and buy a pencil grip if necessary
- ☆ be careful of diet...many sleepy children have inadequate diets

What can I do to help prepare my child for school?

- ☆ visit the school with your child
- ☆ be positive about school (don't ever let on you couldn't do something)
- ☆ talk with your child about school
- ☆ use your local library
- ☆ read to your child- talk about what might happen next
- ☆ share many different experiences
- ☆ support your child to maintain your home language whilst learning English but expose your child also to as much English language as possible
- ☆ provide a variety of play materials- water, mud, sand, paper, pens, pencils and scissors with supervision
- ☆ have an up-to-date immunisation certificate