

Starting School with a Smile

Things children, parents and teachers can do together to prepare for school

FINDING OUT ABOUT SCHOOL:

School starts in late January, or early February, each year.

It is important for parents to:

- Contact the school your child will attend.
- Enrol your child before the new school year starts.
- Find out what day your child will start school.
- Attend the school orientation.
- Find out about the school uniform.
- Meet teachers at the school.
- Find out if there are Community Languages Teachers at the school and get to know them.

GETTING TOGETHER

Children feel better about starting school when:

- They know other children starting school.
- They know their teacher.
- They know the Community Languages Teacher.
- Their parents know their teacher.
- They see their parents talking with their teacher.
- Their parents know other families from the school.

Parents feel comfortable when they:

- Know other families with children starting school.
- Know what happens at school.
- Know what their children are learning.

THINGS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO DO

- Practice some words in English – requests and ways to ask for help.
- Talk about what school might be like and why children go to school.
- Meet with parents and children who know the school.
- Visit the school together.
- Talk to the teachers at school.
- Find a lunchbox and other food containers that are easy to open.
- Talk about eating at school: what to eat when, and bring home what they haven't eaten.
- Talk about how school and home are different.
- Talk about when parents will pick children up from school.
- Talk about hygiene at school and teach children to practice hygiene at school.

AS WELL, PARENTS AND CHILDREN CAN:

- Enjoy reading together.
- Play with pencils, crayons and paper.
- Continue to enjoy interacting in languages other than English.
- Visit libraries, parks and other public places.
- Visit public toilets and talk about using toilets at school.
- Enjoy the changes that happen as children start school.
- Share the excitement of starting school.

WORKING TOGETHER

Parents are children's first teachers.

Children learn a lot from their parents.

Parents never stop being teachers for their children.

Teachers and parents can work together to make school an exciting place to be and to help children achieve their best at school.