

Is your child going to school next year?

Children are legally able to enrol in NSW schools providing they turn 5 by 30 July.

Just because they can legally go to school, doesn't mean you need to send them that year.

A lot of research shows that keeping children home for that extra year may prove extremely beneficial.

If you're not sure, you should firstly speak to the staff at the Centre. Next, make contact with your local school and perhaps speak to a counsellor.

Starting school is a big step. Children are expected to learn - gone are the days where they just play and have milk!

The information in this booklet outlines the expectations of the Department of Education and Training for children starting school.



LANGUAGE

Children should be encouraged to sing songs.

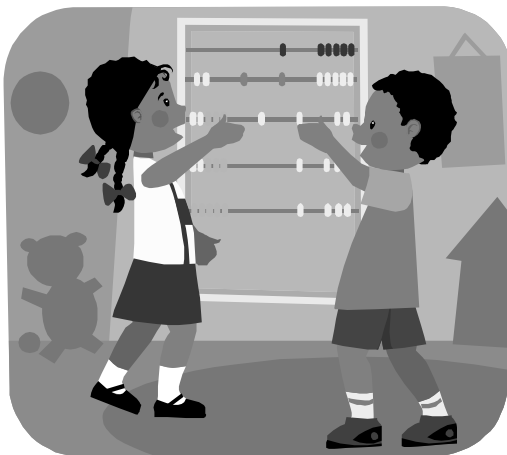
Provide children with a variety of books.

Encourage children to use a variety of art tools such as textas, brushes and pencils to draw, scribble or to write.

Your child should be encouraged to follow simple instructions

Remember, at school your child is going to be 1 of perhaps 20 children

Your child should know his/her name. If your child can write it, that is a bonus - not all children are ready to start writing before they go to school.



MATHEMATICS

Children should be encouraged to count and understand the relationship between objects and the number.

For example, when climbing stairs, ask your child to count them one at a time.

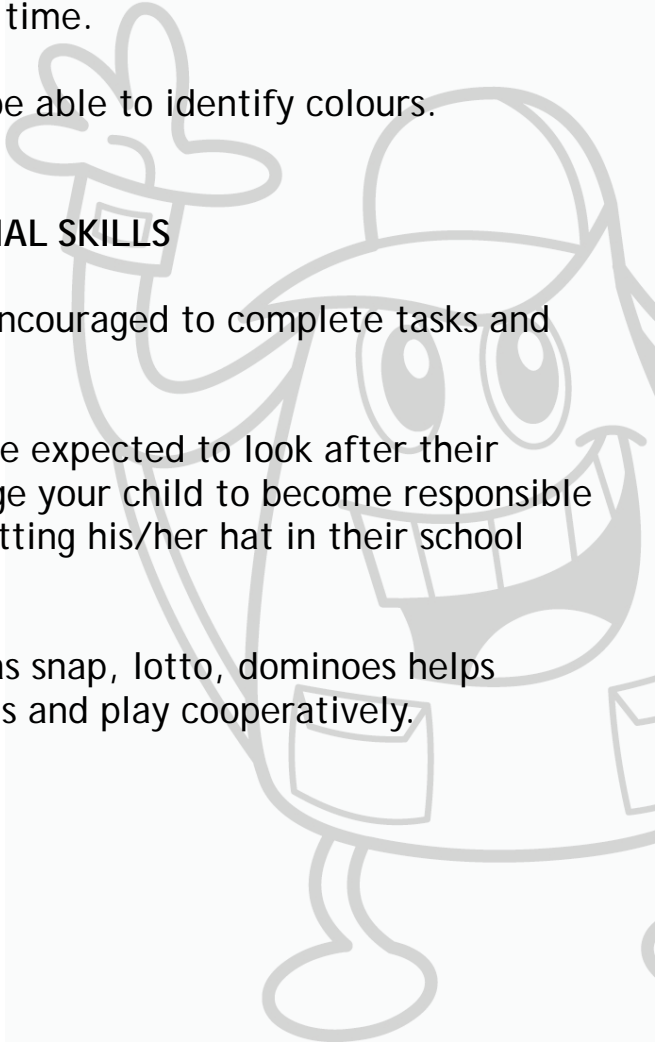
Your child needs to be able to identify colours.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

Children should be encouraged to complete tasks and tidy up afterwards.

At school children are expected to look after their belongings. Encourage your child to become responsible for things such as putting his/her hat in their school bag.

Playing games such as snap, lotto, dominoes helps children to take turns and play cooperatively.



PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ensure that your child can open and close their new lunch box.

Your child needs to know what is for recess and lunch. Find out what time these breaks are by asking your school.

Your child should be confident unwrapping their sandwich and other items in their lunch box. Try practicing at home, or packing a lunch box and going to the park.

Your child should be able to use the toilet independently. Help them become familiar with using public toilets or the school toilets before starting school.

