

Is your child starting school next year?

Children who turn five on or before 31 July next year are eligible to start school. By law, all children must be in school the year they turn six.

If you want your child to go to school next year, now is the time to visit your local school and collect an enrolment form. It is important for you to do this as soon as possible. When you return the form to school, you will need to present your child's birth certificate and immunisation record. Your local doctor can provide you with your child's immunisation details.

It is very important for you to enrol your child now for starting school next year. Schools may offer a transition program which gives you and your child a chance to visit the school, meet other families, meet the teachers and gather information about starting school.

Visiting your new school now helps children prepare for starting school next year. If your child has a chance to look around the school and meet children and teachers they will be more likely to have a more confident start. You can ask questions about how the school is going to teach your child.

When you are at the school you can find out about the educational program, how your child will be kept safe and ways that you can help your child be ready for school.

You can help your child prepare for school by:

- Finding out about the transition or orientation program at your school
- Sharing stories and talk about what might happen next
- Providing opportunities to play with other children
- Encouraging your child to eat and use the toilet independently

If you are unsure whether your child is ready to start school, you can talk to your child's preschool or child care teacher, the principal at the school, your doctor or an early childhood nurse.