

# Starting School in the Illawarra

Parents never stop being educators

Teachers and parents are active and sensitive observers, initiators and participators in this most distinctive and significant year of schooling.

Parents and teachers are partners in enhancing the child's experiences.

For further information contact:

Your prior to school service

Department of Education and Training  
(Illawarra and South Coast Region)  
Early Learning Program Coordinator  
Phone: 02 4224 9200

Your local school

Illawarra Children's Services  
Transition to School Project Officers  
Phone: 02 4283 9900

[www.transitiontoschool.com.au](http://www.transitiontoschool.com.au)



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Activities parents and children can do together to prepare for school



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- Talk to each other about why children go to school.
- Talk to each other about what you think school will be like.
- Visit the school together as part of the organised orientation and by yourself, after contacting the school.
- Both you and your child talk with adults and children who already go to school.
- Be reasonable in the expectations you build up in your child about starting school. Once you start, keep going - it is not just for one day. Get excited about uniforms, but don't go overboard. Don't suggest that your child will learn to read on the first day.
- Both you and your child should get to know the teachers who will be taking Kindergarten when your child starts school.
- Take the time to offer your child's portfolio to your child's kindergarten teacher (if you have one).
- Encourage your child's early childhood educator to send their records on to the Kindergarten teacher.
- Tell the Kindergarten teacher what you know about your child.



- Make sure your child is comfortable in getting to school and home again, whatever this means in your circumstances
- Give your child access to other children in a variety of settings such as visiting the library for story time sessions.
- Get involved in clubs and activities outside school such as little athletics, swimming, soccer, cricket, dancing, etc
- Encourage your child to play with and use pens, paper, paint, water, balls etc. Through play, young children learn naturally. Play activities provide opportunities for your child to explore, interact and solve problems.
- Set a time to read to your child and talk about what might happen next in the story.
- Access a variety of facilities, such as parks and public toilets, with your child.
- Encourage questioning and curiosity.
- Have an up-to-date immunisation record for your child.
- Make learning a fun and pleasurable experience, not a chore.

