

ALGESTER STATE SCHOOL GETTING READY FOR PREP



WHAT IS PREP?

Prep is the first year of school and provides the foundation for your child's education. It is compulsory for Queensland children to undertake Prep prior to Year 1.

Prep is a full-time program in primary schools and has a defined curriculum. Children attend Monday – Friday from 8:50am to 3:00pm.

Children must be 5 by 30 June in the year they enrol.

Prep provides the foundation for your child's success at school by developing:

- a positive approach to learning
- independence and confidence
- thinking and problem-solving skills
- language skills
- early literacy and numeracy
- Physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills.

Prep programs are based on the following principles for the early phase of learning:

1. Children are capable and competent and have been learning since birth.
2. Children build deep understanding when they learn through all senses and are offered choice in their learning experience.
3. Children learn best through interactions, active exploration, experimentation and by representing their learning through a variety of modes.
4. Children's positive dispositions to learning, and to themselves as learners, are essential for success in school and beyond.
5. Children learn best in environments where there are supportive relationships among all partners in the learning community.
6. Early childhood programs are most effective when they recognise, value and build upon the cultural and social experiences of children.
7. Building continuity of learning as children move through school provides foundations for their success.

Enrolment age variations

Parents enrolling their child in school have the option of an early or delayed start. Enrolment age variations may be due to a child's development and readiness, and could improve their ability to learn.

Delayed entry to Prep for children who have not previously been enrolled in Prep

It is not compulsory for your child to attend the Prep year as soon as they are old enough—5 by 30 June in the year they enrol. You can delay their entry by 1 year if you feel they are not ready, but when they start school, they will still start in the Prep year. Your child must be enrolled in school when they turn compulsory schooling age (that is, at least 6 years and 6 months).

Parents who decide to delay their child's start in Prep may choose to keep their child at home or in an early childhood education and care service. Parents may also apply to access an Early Childhood Development Program for children with disability through existing regional processes. No formal documentation, assessment or approval is required for delayed entry to Prep.

Early Entry to Prep

Section 15 of the *Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006* allows early entry to Prep for a child who:

EITHER

- will be at least 5 years and 5 months on 31 December in the proposed year of attendance at school (i.e. a child who turns 5 on or before 31 July); AND
- is considered ready for education in the year of schooling considering the child's attributes;

OR

- had started education in another country, Australian state or territory that is equivalent to Prep; AND
- is considered ready for education in the year of schooling considering the child's attributes.

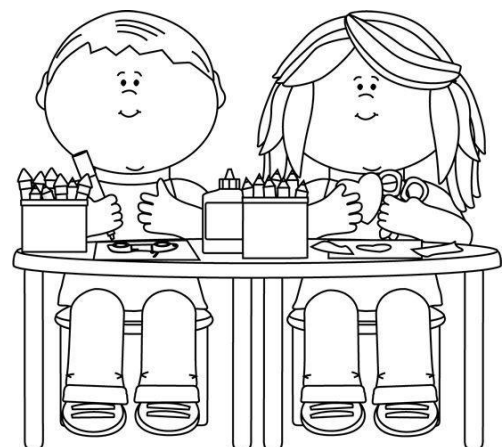
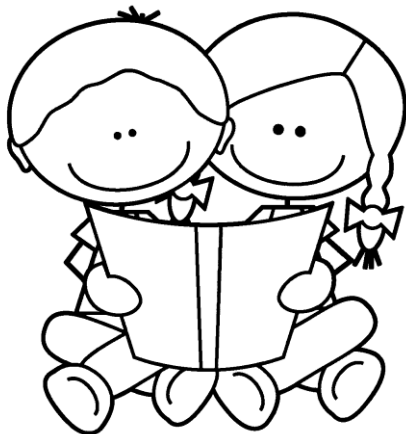
A July birthday or previous school enrolment in another state or country, does not guarantee early entry to Prep in Queensland.

Early Entry to Prep is an exception and should only be considered where it is in the best educational interests of a child.

A parent who is interested in early entry to Prep should contact the school to discuss the requirements with the Deputy Principal.

For further information regarding the application process for early entry to Prep:

<https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/school-information/school-operations/early-and-delayed-entry-to-prep>



PREP AT ALGESTER STATE SCHOOL

We feel very privileged that you have chosen Algester State School to help set the foundations of your child's education. All in our school community are justifiably proud of our school, our curriculum and the children in our care. At Algester, we aim to create the best possible future for all our students.

There is a strong focus on the development of Literacy and Numeracy skills at Algester State School. Our school teaches the Australian Curriculum through engaging units of work and setting high expectations, concentrating on developing students into life-long learners.

Our teachers are dedicated professionals who endeavour to do their very best for your child. We believe that the best possible outcomes are achieved when the school and parents work together, in a productive partnership, to ensure each child achieves their potential.

At Algester State School, Prep is a full-time program and students attend from Monday to Friday from 8:50am – 3:00pm. It is expected that your child attends every day unless there is a legitimate reason to be away, such as illness.

The Prep classrooms at Algester are air conditioned and have an open space for activities, including a carpeted area for activities such as storytelling and singing. There is also a learning area with group tables and chairs and access to a kitchen and outdoor learning area. Prep classes have up to 25 students and a full-time teacher aide.

Our Prep curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Music, Health and Physical Education. Your child will get to experience the curriculum through a range of learning opportunities including real-life situations, focused learning and teaching, investigations, routines and transitions, and play. This is called Age Appropriate Pedagogies, meaning we use a range and balance of research-based teaching and learning approaches.

Your child will receive a report card at the end of each semester outlining his or her achievements. Parent / teacher interviews are also offered twice a year. Of course, you are welcome to speak with your child's teacher at other times to discuss your child's progress and needs.

Prep is integrated fully into the rest of the school and Prep students and their teachers have access to all school facilities (e.g. oval, hall, library, Science Centre) and resources. However Prep students do have a separate playground area, as do most year levels in the school. Prep students wear the same school uniform as the rest of the school.

iPads and the Curriculum

At Algester State School, we aim for our students to acquire knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and capabilities necessary for success in the 21st century. This means that we use iPads for learning in every classroom in a combination of Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD) and shared iPads provided by the school for students. There is an expectation that all students enrolling at Algester State School will provide a BYO iPad and the school will provide loan iPads for students to share when this cannot occur. School loaned iPads cannot be taken home. It is our experience that the best learning occurs for personally owned iPads and not shared devices.

The iPad is used at Algester State School in a way that considers student's individual learning requirements and health and safety across a balanced curriculum. Student learning is enhanced with the use of their iPad along with school books and pencils. The iPad supports the fundamental early years' experiences that children require to develop fine, gross motor and social skills. With our balanced curriculum, the iPad is an important tool for teachers to implement 21st century learning experiences, by giving added voice and choice for a learner-centered teaching approach.

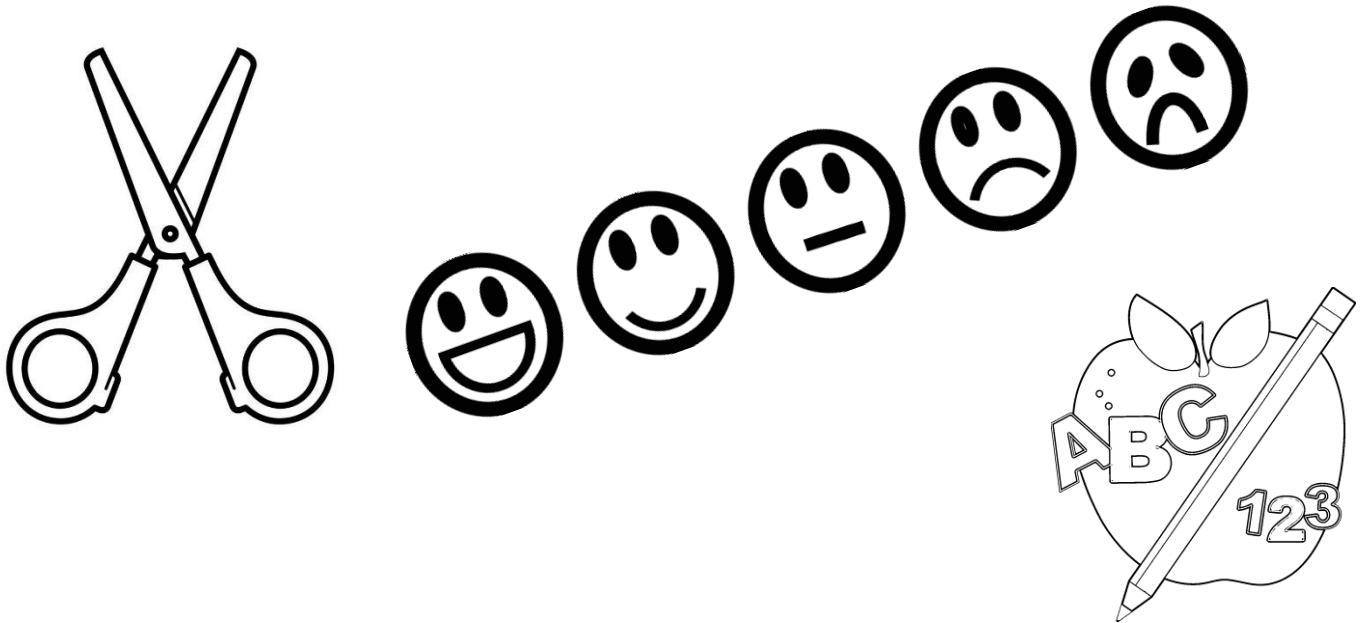
IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL?

READINESS QUESTIONS	YES	NO	UNSURE
Is your child usually happy?			
Can your child accept correction and suggestion without becoming upset?			
Does your child socialise well with other children?			
Does your child respond positively to adults other than family members?			
Can your child contribute to conversation appropriately?			
Is your child confident when speaking in front of people?			
Is your child's speech clear?			
Does your child have a fairly wide vocabulary?			
Can your child perform daily routine tasks alone?			
Can your child take care of personal belongings?			
Can your child dress independently – such as doing up buttons, shoelaces, etc.?			
Does your child go to the toilet and wash their hands independently?			
Does your child share and take turns?			
Does your child generally finish tasks?			
Can your child work alone without being distracted?			
Can your child work well in a group?			
Can your child use scissors correctly?			
Can your child hold a thick pencil or crayon correctly and draw in bold lines?			
Can your child copy a circle, square, cross, rectangle and triangle?			
Can your child recognise colours and shapes, and correctly name these?			

Can your child remember and follow instructions?			
Can your child express their ideas fluently?			
Can your child retell a simple story in correct sequence?			
Can your child discriminate visually between similar things?			
Can your child discriminate between similar sounding words?			
READINESS QUESTIONS CONT.	YES	NO	UNSURE
Can your child rhyme simple words?			
Can your child tell a story based on a picture or sequence of pictures?			
Does your child enjoy books, stories and rhymes?			
Does your child show an interest in the printed word and hold a book in the correct position for reading?			
Does your child have the correct pencil grip? (Refer the following pages.)			
Can your child tell the difference between letters and words?			
Does your child know his/her first and last name?			
Can your child recognise his/her name?			
Does your child know some of the letters in his/her name?			
Does your child attempt to count?			
Does your child recognise his/her own school bag, hat, lunchbox, jumpers etc?			
Can your child unwrap and undo items that you will be providing in their lunch?			
Does your child talk about starting Prep and seem excited to begin school?			
Has your child seen and walked through the school grounds?			

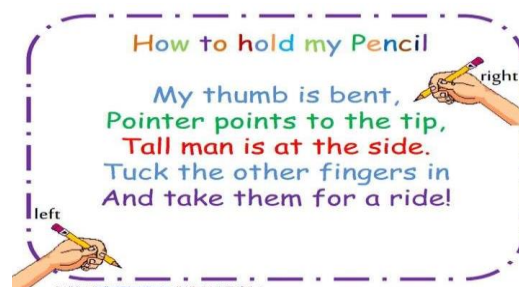
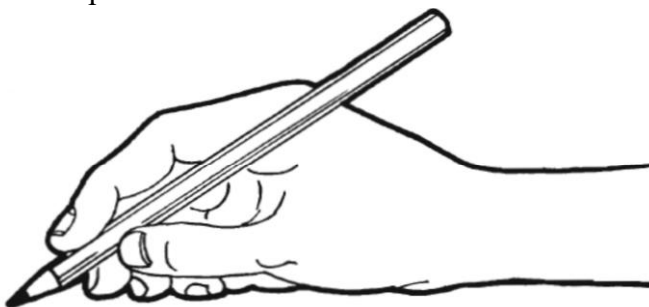
If you answer “YES” to most of the questions, your child should settle in to the Prep day and various routines readily and happily.

If you didn't answer “YES” to most of the questions, don't panic...there is still time for your child to become more prepared and ready for school. Remember also that the teachers and other school staff will be able to assist your child in settling in to school routines.

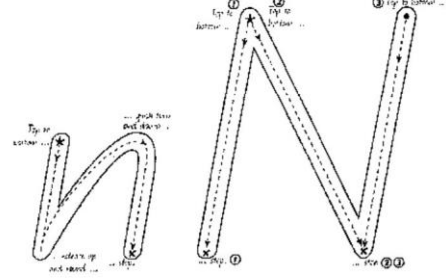
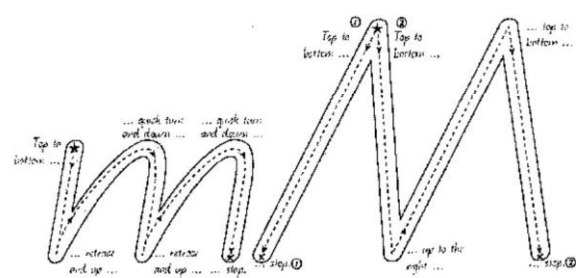
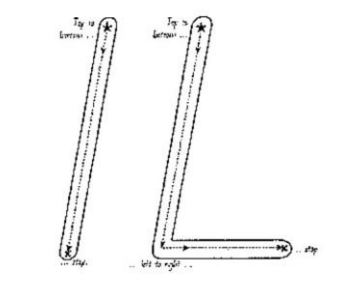
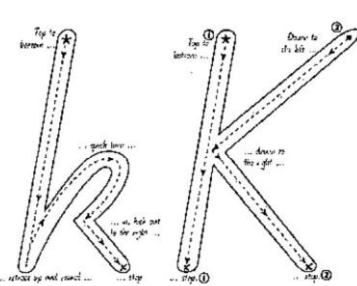
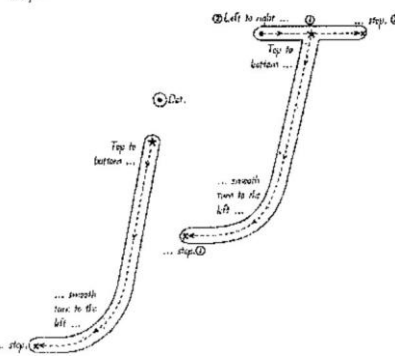
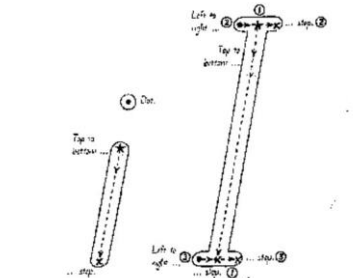
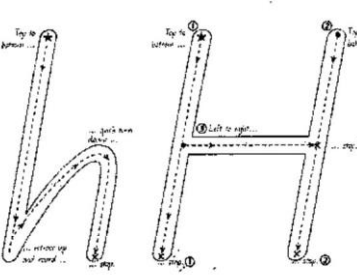
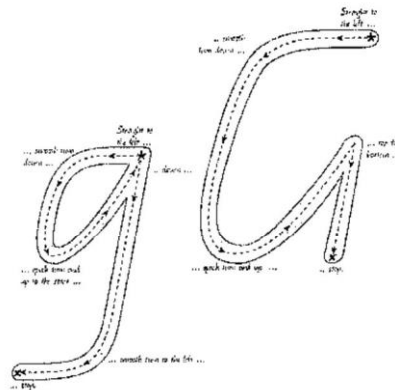
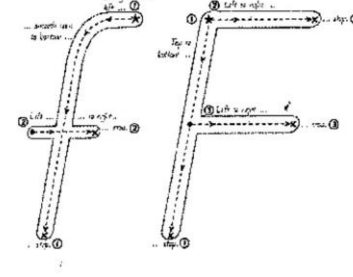
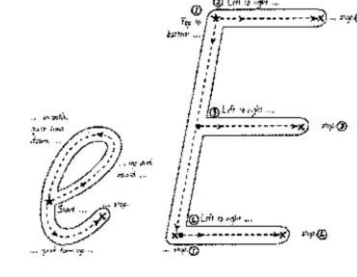
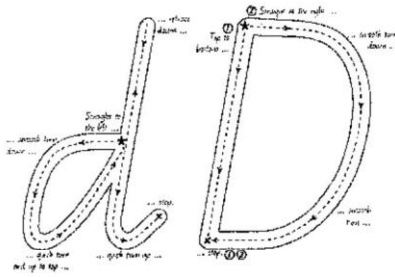
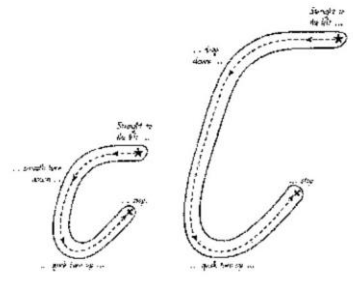
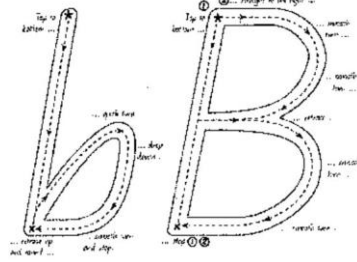
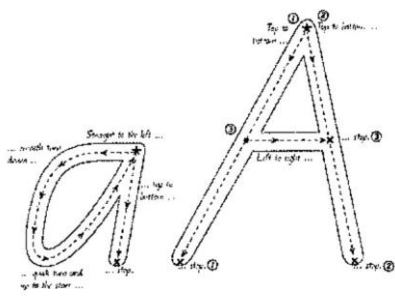


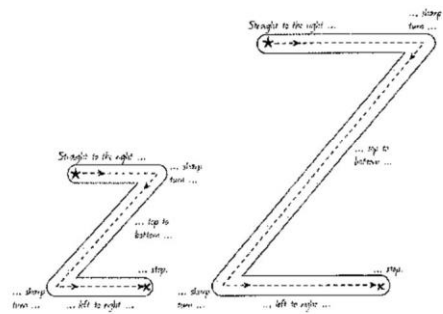
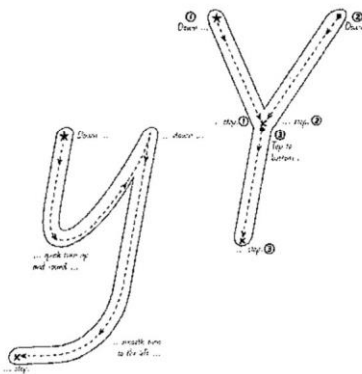
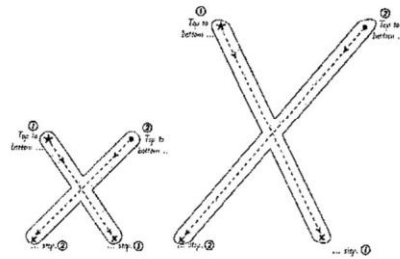
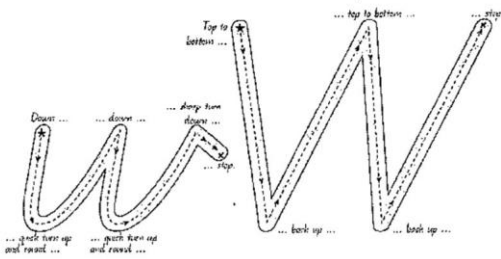
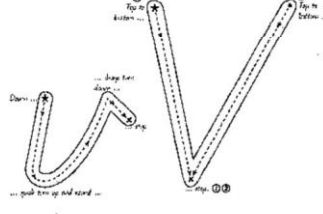
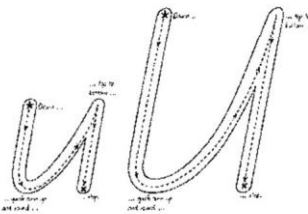
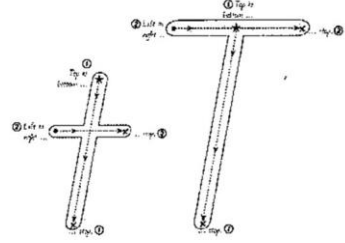
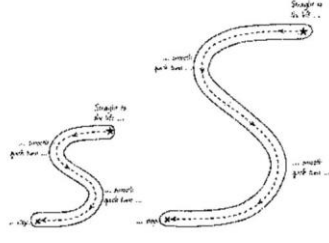
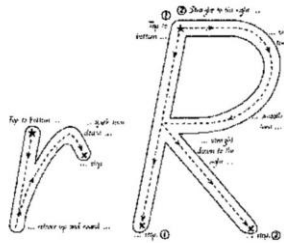
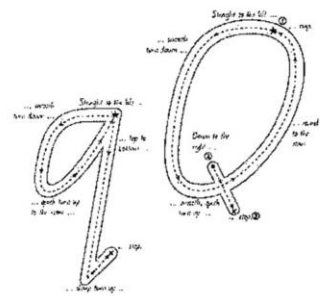
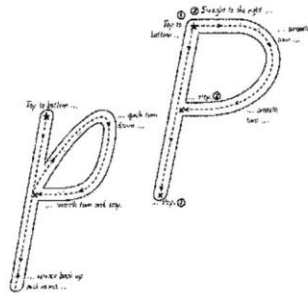
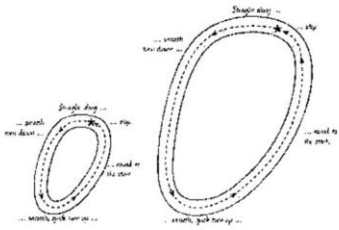
PENCIL GRIP

- Pencil should be held against the index finger, on, or just behind the first knuckle.
- Pencil rests on the middle finger on the nail fold.
- There should be a distance of approximately 2-2.5 cm (right-handed writers) or 3-3.5cm (lefthanded writers) from the writing point of the writing instrument to the tip of the index finger.
- Pencil should not rest in the ‘web’ between the thumb and the index finger.
- The side of the little finger and hand form a shape similar to a question mark (in mirror image for left-handed writers). This creates the hand support.
- Support the pencil between the thumb and the index finger. Try to use the tip of the thumb, not the ‘pad’ underneath.



QUEENSLAND BEGINNERS SCRIPT





ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

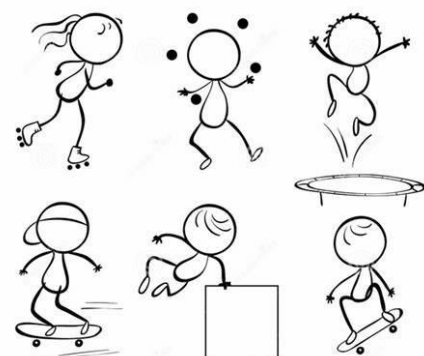
FINE MOTOR SKILLS

- Encourage your child to play with play dough. Show your child how to knead the play dough to soften it. Mould the dough into figures of people or animals. Use rollers and biscuit cutters to roll out and cut the dough into different shapes. Play dough is a fun way to strengthen the muscles of the hand that will be used for writing.
- Give your child items to thread.
- Give your child old magazines or newspapers to cut up, or allow him or her to make a collage of the things he or she likes by cutting them from magazines and gluing them to a piece of paper.
- Give your child several different writing options (coloured pencils, crayons or markers) to help keep her interested in writing and drawing. Include tracing activities such as tracing around hands and objects, and dot to dot.
- Purchase a good pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice. (If your child is left-handed, be sure to get left-handed scissors). Cutting with scissors takes a great deal of finger dexterity and so can be frustrating for young children.
 - Show your child how to hold scissors, how to open and close them, and how to hold and turn the paper while cutting.
 - Draw short horizontal lines on the edge of a piece of paper with a texta. Have your child cut along the lines to make a fringe.
 - Give your child simple shapes to cut out.



GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

- Practise walking and hopping skills on a line of masking tape. Use masking tape on the floor to make a straight line. Say, “Walk on tiptoe on the line.” Demonstrate. Or ask your child to hop along the line on one foot.
- Play catch with your child and make it fun. Start with soft rubber balls, wool, beanbags or foam balls and move up to larger, firmer balls. Start slowly, tossing the ball gently into the child’s midsection to make it easy to catch. Encourage him or her to toss it back. Keep it short; 10 to 15 minutes is usually the maximum time younger children want to play catch.
- Play a game of kickball. Like catching, start in a small area, quite close together. Your child might begin simply rolling the ball with the tip of his foot. You can kick the ball back to your child and enjoy a game of “kick the ball”.
- Set up a bowling game with your child. You can use milk cartons, shoeboxes, blocks or yoghurt containers. Set up a few “pins” and have your child knock them down by tossing or rolling a ball from a reasonable distance.
- Create an obstacle course. You can create an obstacle course with your child using everyday items around your home. Use items such as chairs, tables, tyres, ropes, logs, rocks and boxes to set up obstacles for your child to explore moving around, over and through. Encourage your child to decide on the path to take around the obstacle course and actions that may be needed to pass certain areas.



PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Starting school can be an exciting but stressful time for you and your child. For some children it may be the first time that they have been away from their parents. They may be going into a strange environment with unfamiliar people and things around them.

There are some simple steps you can take to help make your child's time at school more enjoyable and relaxed.

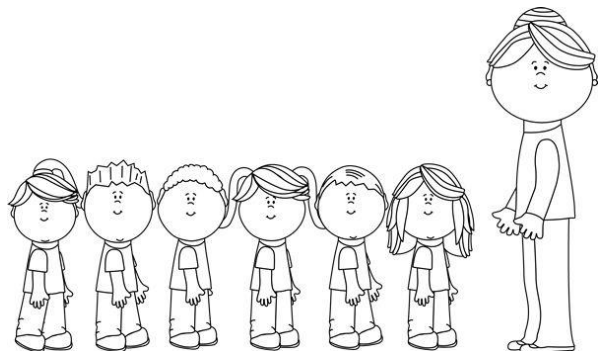
Encourage your child to be independent by helping them get used to:

- being away from his or her parents (organise times for them to be left with family and friends)
- putting on and doing up his or her shoes
- eating and drinking without help (opening lunchboxes, wrapping and unwrapping school lunches and drinking from drink bottles)
- caring for and putting away play things
- using a handkerchief or tissue
- going to the toilet independently
- using playground equipment safely
- carrying his or her own bag
- identifying his or her own belongings
- cleaning up and putting his or her own toys or belongings away.



Work with your child to develop his or her communication and social skills. Help your child to:

- make his or her own needs known
- use appropriate greetings
- respond verbally when spoken to
- share toys and items with other children
- take turns and wait patiently
- follow directions
- play appropriately with and care for all equipment.



Familiarise your child with the school environment and routine by:

- attending the interview with your child prior to him or her commencing
 - showing your child where to put his or her things, such as a school bag and hat
 - making sure your child knows how to get home from school safely or where to wait for you in the afternoon or where to go for after-school care
 - introducing your child to other children in the neighbourhood who will be attending the same school
 - purchasing the required equipment and materials such as school bag, library bag and hat (as per the booklist). Make sure all possessions are clearly labelled with your child's name
 - purchasing the school uniform and shoes and allowing your child to wear them for short periods of time
- encourage children to understand that teachers are at school to help.

Get set for Prep, Parent information sheet: 3, Getting your child set for Prep; Department of Education, Training and the Arts

*The greatest gifts you can give your children are
the roots of responsibility and the wings of
independence. ~ Denis Waitley ~*

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