

Get set for Prep

Parent information sheet: 5

How to get involved

As a parent, you play a vital role in your child's education. By getting involved in the school you can help your child make a smooth and happy start to their education.

You can do this by:

- introducing yourself to your child's teacher
- sharing information with your child's teacher
- keeping the teacher informed of any changes that may affect your child
- talking with your child about their day
- attending parent information sessions
- reading the school newsletter
- checking school bulletin boards
- attending family fun days
- participating in a safe walking to school program with other children or families who live nearby
- attending parent association meetings and talking to other parents
- volunteering to attend school excursions or participate in classroom activities
- participating in school working bees.

Things you can do at home

You can also help your child progress at school by taking some simple steps at home:

- Take an interest in your child's schooling and value the importance of attending. Ask your child over dinner: 'What new things did you do at school today?'
- Read aloud to your child. Reading aloud helps develop the imagination, because it allows listeners to form a picture in their minds. It also helps develop an awareness of the patterns of language.
- Provide a variety of experiences to stimulate your child's imagination — for example, visit the zoo, park or airport.

- Play card games and board games with your child. This helps to develop mathematical, problem-solving, language and social skills such as turn-taking and not always winning.
- Spend time together as a family — activities such as shopping, going to the park or working in the garden build children's awareness and knowledge of the world around them as well as develop language skills.
- Find opportunities to write with your child. This includes making lists for grocery shopping or things to take on trips and writing letters. These opportunities build children's awareness of vocabulary and the importance of reading and writing.
- Sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes together with your child.
- Show respect for your child's natural curiosity. Be patient and try to find the time to answer the many questions they ask or make ways to find answers together.
- Help your child become responsible by encouraging him or her to pass on school notices and newsletters or to pack his or her school bag each day.

