

Starting school is a big and exciting step! It's a time of change - new faces, new routines, and new adventures. Below are some practical ways for families to support their child to feel confident, happy, and ready for their first year of school.

## 1

### Involve your child in the journey

- Talk together about what school might be like - what they're excited about, and what they're unsure of.
- Share books and stories about starting school or role-play fun "school days" at home.
- Encourage creativity - ask them to draw or paint what they think school will be like.
- Practice independence - let them pack their bag, put on their shoes, or open their lunchbox.
- Develop social skills - practice taking turns, sharing, and listening to others.
- Visit the school - walk around, meet the teacher, and show your child where things are.



## 2

### Partner with your family and community

- Share what makes your child unique - their interests, favourite activities, or things that help them settle in.
- Talk with teachers early about your child's needs, routines, or any worries you have.
- Attend school information sessions or transition days - these help both you and your child get familiar with the new setting.



# 3

## Work together with educators and professionals

- Sharing your child's Transition Statement or reports with the new school.
- Letting the school know if your child sees other professionals (speech therapists, child health nurses, etc.).
- Joining transition events where early childhood educators and school teachers come together.
- Encouraging your child's participation in buddy programs or visits with older students.



# 4

## Support and celebrate diversity

- Sharing your family's language and traditions with the school.
- Asking for information in your preferred language or requesting an interpreter if needed.
- Helping your child feel proud of their identity and culture.
- Talking about respect and inclusion - how we can all be kind, fair, and supportive of others.



# 5

## Supporting children with additional needs

- Starting planning early (even before the final preschool term).
- Talking with educators about any special supports or adjustments needed.
- Sharing professional advice or reports with the school.
- Asking about programs like the Kindergarten Inclusion Support or Program for Students with Disabilities.
- Making sure your child is comfortable with mobility aids, communication devices, or other supports before starting.



## 6

### Keep learning continuous

- Encouraging your child to talk about what they do at kinder and what they're excited to do at school.
- Visiting the school together, exploring classrooms and playgrounds.
- Playing games that involve counting, sorting, or storytelling.
- Reading every day - books, signs, recipes, or anything around you!
- Creating a school routine - pack bags together, practice school drop-offs, and talk about each day.



## 7

### Plan and connect locally

- Join community events celebrating new school starters.
- Attend local "starting school" forums or meet-the-teacher sessions.
- Connect with local libraries, community centres, and councils for school-readiness resources.
- Help make school a shared celebration - even simple things like practicing the walk to school or meeting other families nearby.



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