



More Than Kindergarten! School Readiness Too!

At Only About Children we are busy preparing your child for school and would like to support families with some ideas on things you can do at home to ensure your child is prepared to have a great start at school!

LITERACY & LANGUAGE: Writing

Support your child's writing skills at home by modeling writing for a variety of different purposes. For example:

- ➔ Writing lists.
- ➔ Writing in a calendar.
- ➔ Completing forms.
- ➔ Sending emails.



EXPLORATION & STEM: Patterns

Children need experiences with patterns in order to develop key mathematical ideas and concepts essential for primary school. This can easily be accomplished at home by encouraging your child to:



- ➔ Find patterns in the world around them.
- ➔ Copy, continue and create simple patterns with concrete materials such as blocks, leaves, coloured lids, coloured paper clips and cups.
- ➔ Play pattern games. Make up a pattern and ask your child to try to reproduce it. Ask your child to make up their own pattern, and then you try to reproduce it.
- ➔ Thread beads into a simple pattern.
- ➔ Sort kitchen items by category when unpacking the dishwasher.

WELLBEING: Lunchboxes

Help your child become confident in eating lunch from a lunchbox by:

- ➔ Providing opportunities for your child to practice opening food containers, including lunchboxes, Tupperware containers, drink bottles, juice boxes, packaged food portions.
- ➔ Start serving lunch in lunch boxes prior to starting school.
- ➔ Talk about healthy food choices in a lunch box.



HEALTH: Is your child bilingual?

When your child starts school, they will be speaking only English for a big part of the day. They may keep speaking English when they come home. There are some reasons this is common:

- ➔ The story they want to tell you about happened at school in English
- ➔ Their vocabulary in English is expanding and they know lots of new school-specific words that they might not know in their home language.
- ➔ Their friends all speak English and they want to fit in.

There are some things you can do to support your child to continue speaking two or more languages:

- ➔ Keep speaking your home language and allow your child to reply in English or in a mix of both languages.
- ➔ Help to expand their vocabulary in your language. Tell them how to say school words such as "homework" and "assembly".
- ➔ Repeat their English sentences back to them in your home language.