



Is Your Child Ready for School?

In Victoria, children who are at 5 years of age by April 30th of the year of enrolment are eligible to enrol in a public primary school. However, are they “ready” for school? School readiness is more than just age. Children develop at different rates and while some children are ready at 5, others may need more time.

The following checklist (ref: seriouslykids.com.au) will give you guide of whether your child is ready to come to school. **Remember your child may be at different stages for the areas. It is the overall picture that signifies readiness.**

Literacy:

- *Emerging awareness of written and visual text
- *Developing an awareness of writing having meaning and environmental text (e.g. stop sign)
- *Knows and uses book conventions (e.g. turns pages, points to front of book)
- *Recognises own name, and beginning to write it legibly

Language:

- *Follows directions and understands verbal expressions
- *Has a wide (and continues to develop) vocabulary
- *Enjoys listening to stories
- *Speaks in grammatically correct sentences
- *Joins in discussions and enjoys sharing their news
- *Appropriate articulation and volume
- *Asks help or questions, when needed

Self Help:

- *Toilets independently
- *Recognises their own belongings
- *Dresses self, with minimal help

Emotional:

- *Displays emotional security
- *Can cope with minor frustrations/disappointments
- *Is happy and content for most of the day
- *Can accept guidance and direction from adults
- *Separates happily from parents

Cognitive:

- *Finishes tasks
- *Interested and alert
- *Recognises and names basic colours and shapes
- *Numeracy skills developing (e.g. beginning to count small groups of objects)
- *Remembers events

Gross Motor:

- *Plays with balls, confidently runs, jumps, climbs
- *Walks a balance beam using alternative feet
- *A dominant foot that coincides with dominate hand

Fine Motor:

- *Established a dominant hand preference and correct pencil grip
- *Correctly uses scissors
- *Recognisable drawing and developing attention to detail
- *Developed and accurate hand-eye co-ordination



Social:

- *Has developed positive peer relationships
- *Able to work alone and in groups
- *Relates to adults, other than parents
- *Has a positive social personality

Creative:

- *Enjoys joining in musical/group activities
- *Recognises rhythms
- *Uses construction imaginatively
- *Uses a variety of mediums creatively

How can I help my child?

Sometimes the best way to help your child is to give them time to just mature! However, here are some other helpful hints:

- *Have your child practice sitting correctly and on the floor
- *Read to your child daily
- *Point out words and pictures in the books as you read to them
- *Encourage your child to turn the pages
- *Play games such as “I Spy” to help children think about things that start with a particular sound.
- *Read rhyming books, sing nursery rhymes and play games that encourage them to listen to the sounds in words they hear

Phonological awareness is the ability to hear rhymes, alliterations, compare and contrast sounds, blend and split syllables, count sounds in words and perform sound manipulation tasks such as adding and deleting sounds in a word to make a new one. A developing phonological awareness is extremely important. It is the “foundational ability underlying the learning of spelling-sound correspondence” (Stanovich, 1993)

- *Expand their vocabulary by pointing at pictures and having children name them
- *Strengthen fine motor skills and precision through playdough, craft, using scissors, pasting, drawing and tracing
- *Point out things, such as signs and numbers as you go for walks
- *Encourage your child to count and talk about different shapes and colours
- *Model appropriate grammar and sentence structure
- *Organise play dates with children of a similar age
- *Encourage your child to greet their kinder friends, ask questions and respond appropriately
- *Talk about and verbalise feelings, comment on facial expressions in books

If you have any concerns regarding your child and whether they are ready for school your Pre School Educator is the best one to have a chat to first.

If you require any additional information, feel free to call our Foundation Co-ordinator Lucy Newman

Tours with our principal Leanne Bradney can be booked through the school office on 9580 1451.