Supporting parents to help their children have a successful start to school
Learning through play

Play simple card games like ‘Snap’, ‘Memory’ or ‘Go Fish’. Children are using hand and finger muscles to hold the cards, as well as taking turns and matching.

Building together with Lego and blocks strengthens the muscles in children’s hands which helps them when learning to write.

Playing games with dice and counters helps develop numeracy and turn taking skills.

Pretend play develops many skills that will help children at school. Skills to help with friendships, communicating with others and using their body.

Understanding School Talk??
DEC
NSW Department of Education & Communities
Encouraging a love of reading

Talking and listening is the foundation of reading so play games with words and rhymes.

It’s great to read the same book many times. Talk about the pictures together.

Talking and reading with your child will give them a great start to school!

Let your child TELL you the story even if they can’t read the words.

Ask your child questions about the story.
  “Who did you like best in the story?”
  “What did you like about them?”
  “What do you think might happen next?”

Understanding School Talk????
DP
Deputy Principal
Write your child’s name. Talk about the letters in their name.

Offer different writing and drawing tools. Try writing or drawing with chalk on a path, sticks in the sand or painting with water outside.

Playing with dough, pegs, Lego and other building blocks will help to build the muscles in your child’s hands. This will help with writing activities at school.

Understanding School Talk????
KLA’s
Key Learning Areas
The different subject areas taught at school
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- **October 2012**
- **Sun:** Sunday, **Mon:** Monday, **Tue:** Tuesday, **Wed:** Wednesday, **Thu:** Thursday, **Fri:** Friday, **Sat:** Saturday
- **Public Holiday:** 1st
- **Term 4 Begins:** 8th
- **Family Fun Day:** 28th
- **Kindy Orientation:** 30th, 31st
- **School Holidays:** 28th-31st
Encourage Independence

Give your child little jobs to do at home such as make their bed, put their clothes away or set the table. Praise them when they complete the task.

Set a regular bedtime routine: toilet, clean teeth and read a story in bed. Children need plenty of sleep!

Encourage your child to dress themselves.

Encourage your child to drink water as a healthy choice.

Has your child used a public toilet? Talk with your child about the symbols on the doors and using only the boys or girls toilets.

Understanding School Talk??
AP
Assistant Principal
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Deck the halls..

Write on Christmas cards together. Watching adults write messages shows young children that writing is important and conveys messages.

Use catalogues to make Christmas wish lists. Children can cut out pictures and glue them into cards and letters.

Sing songs and rhymes together. Talk to your child about the sounds in words. Create your own Christmas song.

Use recycled items to make decorations to celebrate the holiday season. Material scraps, cardboard containers, ribbon or pieces of wool and newspaper are useful items for making decorations.

Understanding School Talk??

Mufti Day
Out of Uniform Day
Children wear ordinary clothes that day.
Do you have a uniform yet? Children love to dress up in their uniform. Let them wear their school shoes before they start school so they get used to them. They may need school uniforms, sports uniforms and a school hat too.

Talk about the times and structures of the school day. You would be going into school now. This will be lunch time. It would be time to come home now.

Understanding School Talk??

ESL
English as a Second Language

Pack a lunch box with healthy foods. Have picnics outside and encourage your child to open their own lunch box.

Choose a lunchbox and drink bottle that is easy for your child to open!

Remember: Be positive when you talk about school.
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- Check starting dates for my child’s school.
- Have camera ready for first day!

**January 2013**

- **28** Australia Day Public Holiday
- **29** Term 1 begins Staff Development
- **30** Best Start Assessment
- **31** Best Start Assessment
Ensuring a happy start to school

Talk to your child about their day. Ask questions like...
“What was your favourite thing you did today?”
“Did you go into the playground? What did you do?”

Plan a play date with some friends from school. Invite them to come and play at your house.

If you have any concerns about your child, make an appointment to talk to the teacher!

Your child is coping with lots of new things. Be prepared—they may become tired and cranky sometimes!

Understanding School Talk??
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Covered Outdoor Learning Area
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**Things to do...**

Tues 5th February
Tea and Tissues for parents in hall

February 2013
Learning is fun!

Children are naturally curious. Encourage their curiosity. It can lead to great discovery and learning!

“Play is the work of Childhood!”

Piaget

“Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine.” EYLF
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- **Easter**
- **Good Friday**
- **Public Holiday**
Supporting your child’s learning

You will have the greatest influence on your child’s attitudes towards school and learning. Always remain positive.

Remember:
Praise your child when they try something new. Taking risks and learning from our mistakes is an important life skill.

Even though your child is at school, play is still a very important way for them to learn and develop. Provide lots of opportunities for them to just PLAY!

Understanding School Talk??
ES1
Early Stage 1 — Kindergarten
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- **School Holidays**
Helping your child learn to read

Talking and listening is the foundation for reading. Talk often with your child. Play games with the sounds in words. Recite your child’s favourite rhymes.

‘Pretend reading’ is valuable—encourage your child’s attempts.

Show your child you enjoy reading too!

Make comments about the story - “I loved the bit where...” “My favourite part was...”
Encourage your child to comment - “How did you feel about the story?”

School Talk??
HSIE
Society and Its Environment (Social Studies)
Helping your child with numeracy

Division is about sharing. We will share/divide the pizza among 4 people.

Numbers are about ‘how much’, how long’ and ‘how many’. Use opportunities to talk about more or less; longer or shorter; higher or lower; faster or slower.

Understanding School Talk??
OOSH
Out of School Hours Care
Centres which look after children before/after

Learning about shapes is an important maths skill. Words like straight and curved are about shape!

Grouping and matching are foundational number skills.
Need to Find a School?
Or talk to other parents to find your local school

Visit www.earlywords.info for activities to support your child’s language and literacy development

What will my child be learning at school?
The curriculum is set out by Board of Studies

Looking for some parenting support?
http://www.raisingchildren.net.au/

Visit http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/ for comprehensive ‘school life’ and homework support

This calendar has been developed by the Transition to School Project in the Cumberland/Prospect Area
Edited for Normanhurst West PS by Helen Georgiou

The Transition to School Project is funded by: