

New Enrolments

STARTING SCHOOL

Starting school is a really important event and we are just interested as parents in helping children to adjust happily and easily to their first school experiences.

ENROLMENT

Children can start school at the age of five. Parents may come and enrol their children a few weeks before their fifth birthday, when a **birth certificate must be produced and photocopied by the school and an immunisation record sighted**. It is a requirement that all schools photocopy your child's birth certificate on commencement at any school in N.Z., regardless of their age.

Orientation visits take place on Friday mornings between 9:00 and 10:20 a.m. for two weeks prior to the child starting school. This helps to ease children into school routines. An adult must accompany them.

HELPFUL PREPARATIONS FOR SCHOOL

It is helpful if your child -

- Knows his / her own name and address well enough to repeat it when necessary.
- Knows the safest way to and from school.
- Can put away toys and materials after use.
- Knows how to use a handkerchief and always has one.
- Can dress and undress himself / herself without assistance.
- Knows how to put on his/her shoes and do them up.
- Knows how to flush a toilet after use and wash his/her hands.
- Can recognise his/her name in printed form.
- Knows colours by name.
- Read to your children before they start school and talk about the stories. It is a huge help for learning at school. Keep it up when your child is at school. "Experiences" with the family - trips, outings etc. are most important. Show interest in your child by taking time at the end of each day to discuss the school day.

You can further help your child adjust easily to school if you take opportunities to: -

Talk to your child/children about school - where he/she will meet new friends, play games, sing, make things etc. so that when they start school they know some of the activities they will take part in and look forward with confidence to their first day and that it is a happy place. This needs to be treated in a realistic way so that the child does not get an over dramatised or false impression of the actual work that is carried out. It is most helpful to the child and to the teacher to have the child come in a happy, relaxed and interested frame of mind without fears of the unknown.

- Give him / her little duties to perform around the home and ensure that he/she

completes them.

- Explain about lunch at school. If your child consistently brings home part of his / her lunch, cut down the amount.
- Build up his/her confidence and self-reliance in every possible way.
- Make sure your child is familiar with the route to and from school, especially if there is no older brother, sister or friend available to act as an escort. The teacher may be able to arrange for another child to accompany yours