

Getting ready for primary school



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Tick off the tasks that apply to you

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Take your child to your local community health nurse or doctor for a health check and make sure their immunisations are up to date before school starts | <input type="checkbox"/> If your child takes medication or has an allergy, a medical condition or additional needs, make an appointment to speak with school staff as early as possible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for a school Opal card if needed. Go to apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts or phone 131 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Practise safely walking or travelling to and from school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If needed, organise outside of school hours care | <input type="checkbox"/> Connect with other parents and carers on social media |

Useful activities to try in the lead-up to starting Kindergarten

Write down the date your child will start school: _____

- Make sure your child can use the toilet independently – including urinals for boys – and practise good hand-washing techniques
- Write your child's name on all their school things and involve your child in organising them and recognising their name
- Make sure your child's name is not visible on the outside of anything they'll be wearing to and from school
- If you live close to school, practise crossing roads safely as you walk the route with your child
- Check out the local library and let your child choose books to borrow
- Take a ball to a park to throw, catch and kick together
- Organise a picnic with a packed lunch and encourage your child to open it and eat the food by themselves



- Read ***Daisy's First Day*** together
- Help your child put on their school shoes and walk in them
- Let them try dressing in their school uniform
- Encourage them to write the letters of the alphabet
- Guide them to cut and paste pictures from a magazine and draw pictures

Preparing your Child for School

During the year, most parents of school age children are beginning to wonder whether their child is ready for school next year. The best person to discuss this matter is your child's preschool teacher. The preschool teacher knows your child in a setting similar to the school situation.

There are four main areas of child's development to consider when making the decision whether your child is ready for school next year.

- Social
- Physical
- Emotional
- Intellectual

Some questions that you might ask yourself about your child's development:

Social

- Does your child mix well with other children in the preschool class?
- Does your child interact well with other children in your home?
- Is your child able to share equipment and take turns in games?
- Can your child follow simple rules and routines at home and at preschool?
- Can your child put toys away after he/she has finished an activity?
- Does your child know simple courtesies, e.g. Saying 'please and thank you', excusing his/her self when requiring attention from an adult?

Please teach your child to wait until you finish talking. He/she will need this skill during class lessons.

Physical

- Can your child dress him/her self?
- Is your child able to use pencils, scissors, glue and paintbrushes correctly? These are some of the most important skills your child can bring to school.

Emotional

- Is your child able to separate from you when left at preschool each day?
- How does your child react when taking turns in activities?
- How does your child accept reprimands?
- Can your child accept losing in a game?

Intellectual

- Does your child recognise his/her own name?
- Is your child interested in hearing or 'reading stories'?
- Can your child follow a simple oral instruction? e.g. Put the cup on the table.
- Does your child listen quietly to stories?
- Can your child complete simple jigsaw puzzles?
- Can your child concentrate on activities to completion e.g. jigsaws, games etc.
- Can your child say his/her name, address or phone number?
- Does your child enjoy colouring in, drawing pictures and making things with construction toys?

What can you do to help your child prepare for school?

- Be positive about school and learning
- Talk about 'big school' and changes in routine
- Drive past a school and discuss what it is
- Maintain your home language whilst learning English
- Encourage your child's curiosity by asking questions
- Encourage your child to ask questions about their environment
- Read to your child and talk about the stories
- Teach them to use a tissue and blow their nose
- Show your child how to dispose of rubbish
- Help your child to recognise the difference between recess snacks and lunch
- Allow your child to take the lid off their drink bottle and then replace it
- Help them take responsibility for their own belongings
- Allow them to carry their own things
- Teach your child to clean up after themselves

Please talk to your child about...

- Good stories/memories about your school days
- What school was like and the things you liked most of all
- What school will be like
 - What the teacher does and how children learn and play at school
 - New routines to follow - e.g. getting to school on time!
 - New rules to follow – e.g. asking to go to the toilet
 - Wearing a special uniform - tell your child about school clothes



School - Self Help Skills

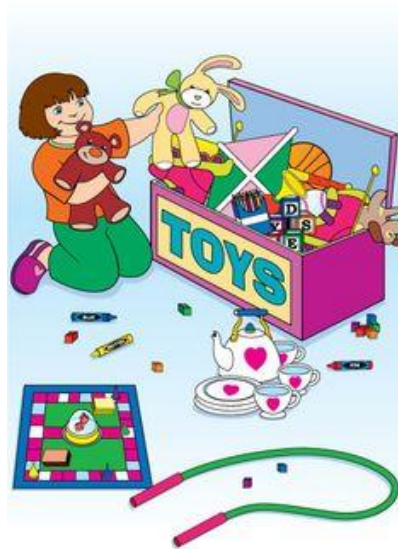
When children come to school, there are many little things that they are required to do each day for themselves. These things are small in comparison to learning activities, but can be very frustrating for a child that can't do them. Please be aware that your child will be one student in a class of 20 students and there is only one teacher in the classroom.

It is helpful if your child develops the skills to:



- ✓ Open a lunch box
- ✓ Drink water from a bottle or popper
- ✓ Eat pre-packed foods
- ✓ Pack away toys
- ✓ Be responsible for their own belongings

- ✓ Pack their own bag
- ✓ Put clothes away
- ✓ Dress or undress themselves – including a jumper or sweatshirt
- ✓ Use a toilet correctly - boys need to know how to use a urinal



Please try not to do for your child what they are able to do for themselves. Allow your child to become an independent young person and make the transition from preschool to school as stress free as possible by allowing their independence to grow. This is an invaluable quality and skill your child will need to be a 'life long learner'.

The Preschool Program

A good preschool program focuses on all of the above aspects of your child's development. Although the intellectual aspect is very important, the most important are the social and emotional aspects. If a child has not mastered these extremely important skills, then Kindergarten (Early Stage 1) can be a very daunting and confusing place. If your child does not feel at ease with his/her surroundings and feel confident to interact with adults and other children, your child will not be able to concentrate on more academic challenges of school.

Please remember that your child attends school for 13 years and needs to develop a 'love of learning'.

How will you know if your child is ready to start school?

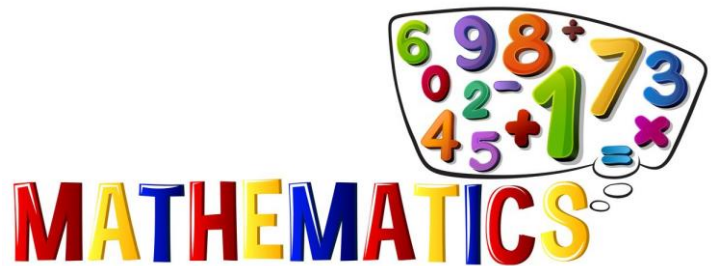
All children are different and develop at different rates and learn different things in different ways, so remember your child is an individual! However, here are some indicators of skills that help children with their transition into Kindergarten.

Language Skills

- Talks to other people about things that are familiar to them
- Answers and asks simple questions
- Makes needs known
- Follows simple instructions
- Uses books for enjoyment or for looking at pictures
- Uses a large variety of things to draw, to scribble or to write
- Joins in singing familiar songs
- Recognises their name
- Writes their own name

Mathematics Skills

- Recognises that numbers can be used to count
- Uses words such as like, all, a lot, less, more, before, after
- Identifies things in a group that are different
- See differences in shapes
- Differentiates opposites
e.g. up-down, under-over, day-night



Personal/Social Skills

- Adapts to unfamiliar settings and new experiences
- Can finish a task and clean up afterwards
- Plays cooperatively with others
- Shares and takes turns
- Can sit still and listen to stories for a few minutes
- Is curious about the world
- Can share an adults attention with several other children
- Is able to care for their own possessions
- Participates in imaginative play
- Uses toilet paper independently

Physical Skills

- Uses scissors to cut along a straight line
- Enjoys a variety of indoor and outdoor activities
- Can put on and take off jumpers
- Is able to take off shoes and socks and put back on
- Makes and designs things using a variety of materials
- Shows strength and control of their body when moving

What we offer at Ramsgate Public School

Transition Program

The Transition to School Program is very important to ensure that students have time to settle into their new environment. It also gives teachers the opportunity to get to know their students and begin to prepare programs to meet individual needs as required.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, the Transition to School Program at Ramsgate Public School will be held over the first 6 days of Kindergarten 2021. Parents and carers will be provided further details towards the end of 2020.

Quality Academic Programs

At Ramsgate Public School we offer quality academic programs for students from Kindergarten to Year 6 in all curriculum areas. There is a focus on Literacy and Numeracy development, catering for all ability levels and interests.

A Variety of Special Programs

The school also provides a wide range of additional programs. Students are able to gain skills in a wide variety of areas that enhance their learning and social development. These include:

- English as a Second Language
- Learning Assistance
- Library
- Band
- Inter-school sport (PSSA)
- Choir
- Dance
- Skipping
- Swimming lessons
- Excursions and Camps



Programs utilised in Kindergarten at Ramsgate Public School

- Language, Learning and Literacy (L3) – From Day One of Kindergarten students provided with rich literacy experiences to support all students to become successful Readers and Writers through explicit teaching in Guided Reading, Writing and Reading to students. During these lessons, students will work in small groups and be continuously assessed in order to maintain progress and to learn to read at their individual level
- A home reading program compliments their school reading so that they can practice these new skills with parents and caregivers each night
- Students gain the knowledge of the alphabet and its sounds, as well as focus on learning high frequency words
- Writing is practised each day and each student is encouraged to ‘have a go’ and share their stories. Both reading and writing are developed from the child’s oral language
- Practical hands-on activities are used to support learning of mathematical concepts
- The TEN (Targeted Early Numeracy) program is implemented and assessment is regular
- Other curriculum areas, such as History, Geography and Science are taught to complement and enhance students strengths
- Students regularly use a variety of technologies in their classroom and visit our well resourced Library each week
- Fundamental movement skills that develop basic sport skills are taught each Thursday

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Positive Behaviour for Learning is a general approach based on worldwide research that aims to prevent problem behaviour for all students through a broad range of systemic and individualised strategies. PBL is implemented across K-6 in all school settings. Some of the specific strategies put into place to ensure the success of PBL are:

- Clear expectations of student behaviour;
- Clear consequences for problem behaviours;
- Consistent implementation by all involved;
- Explicitly taught student behaviours; and
- Positive reinforcement and acknowledgement of behaviours with constant monitoring and feedback for both students and teachers alike.



Useful websites:

Quick guide for parents and carers - everything you need to know
www.education.nsw.gov.au/parent-guide

Practical help with homework, school transitions and supporting students
www.education.nsw.gov.au/back-to-school

For complaints, compliments and suggestions
www.education.nsw.gov.au/your-feedback

Disability, learning and support
www.education.nsw.gov.au/disability-learning-and-support

Say hello

-  @NSWDepartmentofEducation
-  @NSWEducation
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We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal people and pay our respect to Country.

