

GREENLANDS STATE SCHOOL



SHAPING CONFIDENT LEARNERS THROUGH ENGAGING AND PERSONALISED LEARNING AND HIGH QUALITY TEACHING



PREP READINESS

Starting school is a major milestone in a child's and a family's life. It's the start of a long partnership where families join our school community. We work together for the benefit and development of the child.

This document is designed to provide a few hints to new families about how they can ensure their child is ready for this big step.

How can parents support children in feeling happy and confident at school?

- ⇒ Make sure the child's lunches and snacks are easy to unwrap and they know they don't have to eat everything in one sitting.
- ⇒ Use shoes with Velcro fasteners until your child can be taught (at home) how to tie shoelaces.
- ⇒ Label EVERYTHING— including shoes and socks. It's amazing how many un-named items our lost property box can get.
- ⇒ Put an extra pair of undies in a plastic bag; accidents do happen and it reassures the child to know they have 'back up supplies'. The soiled undies can go home in the plastic bag.
- ⇒ Expect children to be tired for the first few weeks. Even if they are used to care situation— Prep at school is a big step up. Provide a cuddle, drink, snack and some quiet time when they first arrive home.
- ⇒ Make sure children have enough sleep— add an afternoon nap on weekends if your child seems over-tired.
- ⇒ Ask about their school day but expect you might get a shrug or off-hand reply. Learn to ask positive questions such as, "Tell me two good things that happened today".
- ⇒ Always keep in touch with your teacher.
- ⇒ Read the school newsletters, email and other communication methods.
- ⇒ Involve yourself in the life of the school by helping with Parents & Citizen Association activities.
- ⇒ Volunteer to help in the classroom.



KNOWLEDGE

TOLERANCE

INTEGRITY

PREP READINESS CHECKLIST

Below is a checklist you can work towards with your child so these can be achieved prior to starting prep, setting them up for a successful first year. Once your child has learnt a new skill, remember that regular practice, with lots of positive praise, will help to develop their confidence to do it again.

Personal Development

- Sits with legs crossed
- Sits on the floor and on a chair at a table to complete a task
- Is aware of the concepts of left and right
- Uses the toilet completely unassisted
- Recognises numbers to 5
- Counts to 10
- Names shapes and colours
- Developing independence (e.g. can open lunch box and put it in backpack, zip up bag, open containers, undo cling wrap, put on shoes)
- Reading to your child to develop a love of books, showing basic concepts such as front of the book and how to turn the pages.
- Writes and recognises own name (see guide provided)
- Recognises some upper and lower case letters of the alphabet (see guide provided)
- Sings the alphabet
- Labels body parts (e.g. head, foot, mouth, shin)
- Is aware of print in the environment (e.g. McDonalds, stop signs)



Social Development

- Sits and listens to a story
- Separates easily from parents
- Listen to others
- Interacts with others
- Focuses on a task
- Takes turns in activities and games
- Uses manners with others e.g. please and thank you

Speech & Language Development

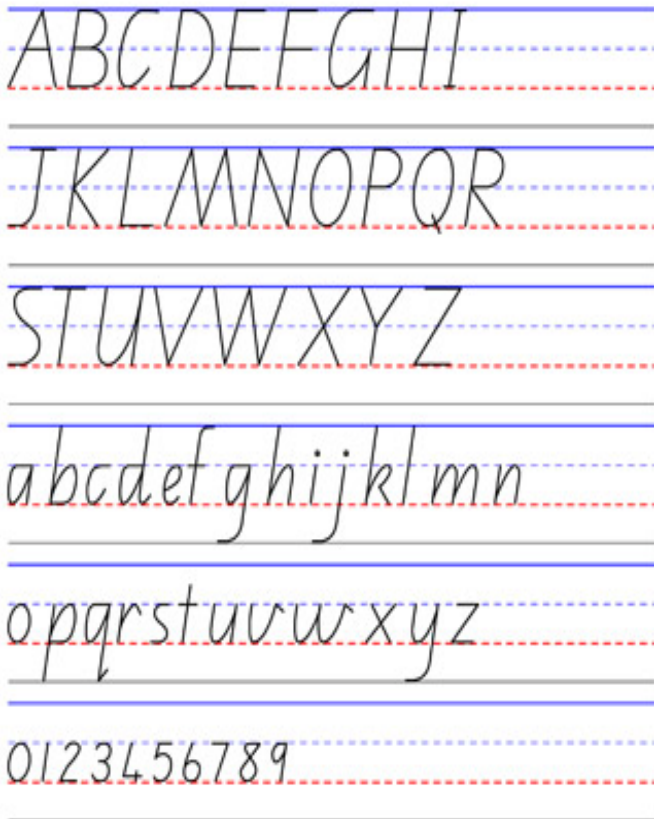
- Speaks clearly
- Speaks in sentences
- Requests what is needed from others clearly
- Follows 2 part instructions e.g. put your lunchbox away and wait at the door.
- Uses positional language (e.g. above/ below/ between/ under/ before/ in front of etc. These can be played in games.)
- Says some nursery rhymes
- Recognises rhyming words

Fine Motor Development

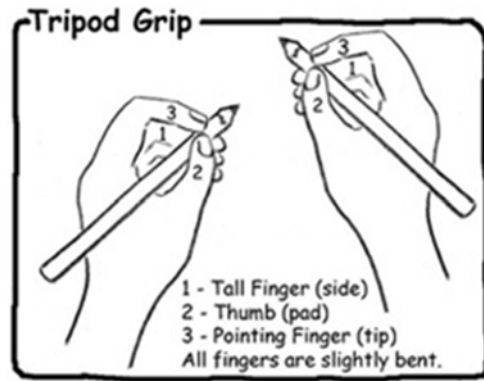
- Holds a pencil correctly (see guide provided)
- Holds and uses scissors correctly (see guide provided)
- Threads beads and puts puzzles together.

Handwriting Script

QLD Print



Pencil Grip



Scissors Grip



What happens before the first day?

- ⇒ Visit the school so the child knows where it is and what it looks like.
- ⇒ Practise using their lunch box to ensure they can open it.
- ⇒ Practise packing and unpacking their school bag
- ⇒ Practise wearing the uniform for short periods at home.
- ⇒ Make sure the child understands the importance of wearing a hat when at play.
- ⇒ Assure the child you will be there ready for them at the end of the school day.

What happens on the first day?

- ⇒ Time your arrival for about 8.30am.
- ⇒ Promote independence by letting the child carry his / her bag.
- ⇒ Help the child find the new classroom and meet their teacher.
- ⇒ Help the child unpack his / her bag.
- ⇒ Help them find an activity to do in class.
- ⇒ When they are ready- say a quick goodbye and depart quickly (even if there are a few tears).
- ⇒ At the end of the day, wait in the covered area for your child to leave their classroom.