



**TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN STATE SCHOOL**

*GET SET*



**FOR  
SCHOOL**









## ***Is your child really ready for school?***

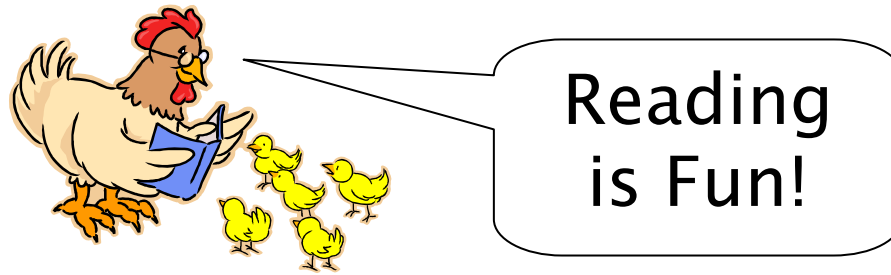
It is a huge step beginning school. The following tips will make the progression so much easier.

Dress themselves	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Recognise their own name	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Write their own name (NB: If you want to teach your child to write their own name, please use lower case letters. eg. Jennifer)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Open all the wrappings on their morning tea and lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Spend time away from you without getting upset	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Tie their own shoelaces	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Listen attentively to instructions	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Follow simple instruction easily	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Play safely with other children	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Communicate their needs correctly	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Organise their personal belongings and put away their property	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Know what to do if they are lost	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

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There are many ways that you can prepare your child for Prep. Here are just a few.

-  If any of the above answered 'NO', spend time practising them.
-  Talk positively about starting school.
-  Have fun drawing, colouring, cutting etc to improve their fine motor skills.
-  Continue to read and tell stories frequently.
-  Listen and talk with your child.
-  Encourage your child to play with their friends that will be going to Tamborine Mountain State School.



## Suggestions for Parents

### **THE FIRST YEARS OF SCHOOL**

When a child first goes to school, there is a great change for that child, and for their family. We believe that you, the child's parents/guardians are the most important link in the educational chain. We have reproduced the suggestions below with the conviction that together parents and teachers can make your child's experience of school an excellent and enjoyable one.

### **PARENTS AND TEACHERS AS PARTNERS**

The better the bridge between home and school, the better the education: that's the message of recent research. We look forward to our partnership with you, and hope that you'll really become involved in the life of the school. We will do our best to communicate with you about what we are doing in our school and why. We will try to answer your questions as honestly and completely as we can.

### **DON'T UNDERESTIMATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

You were your child's first teacher, and even now that they are entering formal education, you retain that important position.

### **THE TRANSITION FROM HOME TO SCHOOL**

Starting school is a big change for children. Often the hardest part is being away from the family and joining a group of 24 other children. Anything you can do now to help will make school a happier place for your child. Here are some ways in which you can support and build on the classroom experience:

#### **Provide opportunities for shared language experience:**

So many places to go... the city, the zoo, the beach, art galleries, concerts... So many things to do... paint, make, cook, share and discuss. Getting ready to go or do will mean making plans and of course, there will be many recollections to be discussed afterwards.

#### **Provide opportunities for your child to spend some time away from the family:**

This will help your child to become more independent and to build self-confidence. Why not arrange an overnight stay with Grandma, a friend or a relative? Teddy or a favourite toy should always act as chaperone! Take the time also to encourage your child to play with friends from a nearby street.

### **Encourage Questions:**

Five and six year olds are full of questions about why and how. They may annoy from time to time, but such questions are at the heart of investigating and therefore learning. Listening to and answering these questions seriously will help your child remain an active and curious learner. Don't be afraid to ask questions of your child. (Questioning isn't easy, and parents, like teachers, need practice!). Parents need to be continually asking questions which require more than just a yes/no/don't know answer. Don't be put off when your when your child's answer to "What did you do at school today?" is "Nothing". Be more specific – ask about friends, craft, reading time, singing, games played, stories heard.

### **Encourage Children to Discover for Themselves:**

We all have to learn to take responsibility for our own learning. Young Children are natural investigators. Don't always tell them all the answers, but do provide the means for them to find their own answers. Much problem-solving is learnt through play. Child psychologist Jean Piaget said that '... play is the child's work'. Encourage active imaginative play, through dressing up, playing shop or mothers and fathers at school. A special messy place, such as a verandah or rumpus room will help here.

### **Share Reading Experiences:**

At five and six, the bedtime story is an important as ever. After the bedtime story, allow some quiet moments for reading in bed. Share new stories and poems, perhaps borrowed from the local library and rediscover the fun of old favourites. If in doubt about which books to choose, ask your librarian or your child's teacher to recommend some.

### **Encourage Drawing and Writing at Home:**

When is a child ready to begin to draw and write? As soon as they can hold a crayon. Out of the scribble will eventually emerge picture and words. Keep on hand a store of pencils, paper, paint, crayons, cardboard, safety scissors, etc.

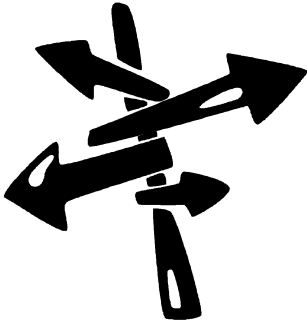


### **Sometimes Scribe For Your Child:**

Write down a story (statement) as your child tells it, then read it back several times. Display the 'story' for the whole family to share, on a wall, notice-board or fridge.

### **Put TV Viewing in its Proper Perspective:**

Most children enjoy watching TV, but they also need time for playing, reading, being out of doors, - time for doing lots of things. Choose carefully what and how much your child watches on television. Sometimes ask questions about the programme. The ABC's Play School gives lots of ideas for children to do and make at home. Many kindergarten classes view this programme in school time for the first few weeks at school. It provides a familiar link between home and school.

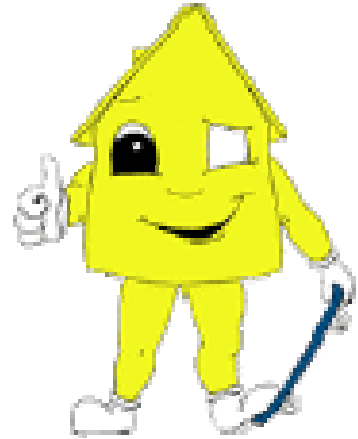


**Ensure that Your Child Has a Good Knowledge of the Route to and from School:**

Could your child find their own way home, if necessary? Can they say their name and address clearly? Learning these things can be made into a game – there is no need for pressure or drills.

**Teach Your Child Basic Road Safety:**

Every child should have a basic understanding of road signs and road crossing procedures. Introduce your child also to the "Safety House" sign and what it means. Any house or premises displaying this friendly yellow house sign is a place for your child to nip into should they feel concerned about being followed or bothered by somebody. Children should learn, however, not to abuse the "Safety House" concept by just popping in for a drink or for fun.



**Get to Know Your Child's Teacher as a Friend Whom You and Your Child Both Share:**

The benefits of a good relationship between teacher and parent are obvious. Don't hesitate to communicate with the teacher as you see the need – before confusion arises or problems develop.

**Support Children in What They Do at School**

Display at home art and craft done at school, as well as stories written. Help children find things to take for school activities or themes – make and do boxes, objects for the Science table, clothes and objects for dress up and imaginative play.



# How Can Parents Help At Home?

## To help your child with reading

- Have a routine of reading to your child every day. This is one of the best ways to developing lifelong positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of print and books.
- Praise every effort in reading, especially if confidence is low. Don't compare a child's performance with that of relative and friends.
- Be seen as a reader yourself. Take the family to the local library. Help in selecting books but resist the temptation to impose your own choices.
- Give books as presents and show your child how to care for them.
- Buy your child a bed lamp and encourage the routine of reading in bed before lights-out.
- Encourage your child to make good use of the library books. Ask: "what have you borrowed this week? Would you like to read some of it to me? Would you like to read the whole book to me, a chapter a night?"

## To help your child with writing

- Let them see you write – letter, shopping lists, messages and so on.
- Encourage the family to write – letters to friends and relatives, thankyou notes, get well messages...
- Display writing in the home – reminders, lists of thing-to-do, messages of congratulations, postcards from friends on holiday. Have a kitchen noticeboard or some attractive magnets on the fridge door.
- Give presents associated with writing – different types of pens and pencils, paper of different shapes and colours, a desk lamp, a diary, a dictionary, erasers.
- Be an interested listener and reader. Talk over ideas for writing, encourage the reading aloud of early drafts, read the finish product with enthusiasm.
- Praise writing done at school. Pay more attention to what your child is writing about than to the spelling and punctuation.

### To help your child with mathematics

- Do all you can to develop their sense of number, size, length, weight, width, volume, area, mass/weight and time. Find maths everywhere.
- Remember the influence you have on your child's attitude to mathematics. Comments such as "No-one in this family is much good at maths", or "Well you're a girl and girls are better at English", set up tremendous barriers to learning.
- Involve them in real-life mathematics around the home – counting change, measuring, weighing, estimating, playing games that involve keeping scores, calculating journey times...
- Encourage the older child in hobbies that require 'hands-on' mathematical skills and sense of spatial relationships – making models, assembling kits.
- Use solid objects – buttons, sticks, pieces of string and the like – when helping with mathematical problems.
- Avoid confusion by checking methods being taught at school before helping your child.

### To help your child with Integrated Studies

- Encourage natural curiosity about the world around us. What are the similarities and differences amongst groups of people? What are some of the hardships faced by people in our society and in other countries? In what ways do we all depend on each other?
- Foster such attitudes as tolerance, cooperation, open-mindedness and compassion in discussing different social issues within the family.
- Find interesting and well-illustrated books on how different groups of people live.
- Watch and discuss TV programs that examine significant social issues.
- Encourage your child to think at their own level, about why things are the way they are and how we might all help to make a better world.