Is your child starting school next year?

What is the Transition Learning and Development Statement?

Starting school is a major life transition for you and your child. The Transition Learning and Development Statement summarises your child’s strengths as they start school, identifies their interests and shows how they can be supported to continue on their learning journey.

Transition Learning and Development Statement – Part 1: the family (Section A and B) is for you and your child to fill in.

For more information

Choosing a school for your child and/or enrolling your child into school please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice or phone the DEECD Information and Referral Service on 1800 809 834

Parentline is a Victorian telephone counselling, information and referral service for parents and carers with children from birth to 18 years. Phone: 13 22 29

Maternal and Child Health Line is a 24-hour telephone advice service available to families with children from birth to school age. Phone: 13 22 29

Further resources


These documents have been translated into 21 community languages which are available at www.education.vic.gov.au/earlylearning/transitionschool/profresources/caldresources.htm


Please read the Guidelines to help families complete the Transition and Development Statement – Part 1: the family (listed under Further resources) for more information about the Statement process.

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What can you do to support your child’s transition to school?

You can help by:

• enrolling your child in school from May in the year before school starts
• participating in family activities at your child’s early years service and school in the year before school starts and once your child is in prep
• taking your child to transition activities at the school (you can ask the school when these activities will be held).

Tips for Transition

The year before school

• Ask your child what they think about school and talk to friends and other families about what starting school was like for them.
• Encourage your child to do things on their own like dressing, going to the toilet, washing their hands, unwrapping their food and opening and closing their drink bottle.
• Help your child stay healthy. Have regular health and dental checks and keep immunisations up-to-date.

During the summer holidays

• Show your child where the school is and talk about how you will get there.
• Spend time with your child practising the things they will need to do to get ready for school (e.g. putting things in their bag, remembering to take a hat).
• Visit your local library and read books with your child about starting school.

The first day of school

• Make sure your child knows who will take them to school and pick them up on the first day.
• Help your child to pack their school bag with a snack, drink, lunch and a hat.
• Show your child where you will meet them at the end of the school day.

The first year of school

• Find out about what your child is learning at school and what you can do at home to support their learning.
• Talk often with your child about school. Ask them about their new experiences, what they like and what they find hard.
• If your child is having difficulties at school, talk to their teacher.