

What should I do for the first day?

- Talk with your child about what to expect at kindergarten and make sure they know where the toilets are, how they can get a drink and where their bag and belongings are.
- Provide information on your child's immunisation status to the kindergarten and make sure staff are aware of any allergies or medical conditions that affect your child.
- Provide emergency contact details as well as the details of any other people who may pick up your child such as grandparents or partners.
- Familiarise yourself with people who will be involved with your child at the kindergarten. This is important to ensure you share information with the correct people about your child's day, as well as knowing who to speak with about your child's progress.
- Inform staff about any special needs your child has. This will allow them to help your child make a smooth transition into kindergarten.
- Most importantly, develop a relationship with your kindergarten. A positive attitude from the parent is passed onto the child. Creating excitement about learning in these early days is essential for future learning.

Who can I contact to get more information about my local kindergarten?

Parents are encouraged to visit their local public kindergarten and speak to the principal or kindergarten teacher.

You can also contact:

- the local District Education Office
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Workers at your local school or the Aboriginal Liaison Officer from the local District Education Office
- Community Settlement Support Officer at a local Migrant Resource Centre.

Alternatively you can visit the Department of Education and Training website at www.det.wa.edu.au



Small Steps, Giant Leaps Forward Starting Kindergarten



Explore, play, learn and make friends at your **public school**



Choosing the right kindergarten for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make in their educational journey. Qualified early childhood education teachers provide a safe, stimulating and supportive environment where your child can grow socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. Kindergartens in public schools aim to capture childrens' natural love of learning while developing literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for future learning.

When can children start kindergarten?

Children can start kindergarten if they turn four years of age on or before 30 June in that year.

How often can children attend kindergarten?

Children attend kindergarten for 11 hours per week. This may be two full days, four half days or one full day and two half days per week.



Is kindergarten compulsory?

Kindergarten is not compulsory. However, more than ninety percent of children in Western Australia attend kindergarten.

What happens at kindergarten?

In the kindergarten at your local public school children learn through playing and being actively involved in experiences planned by the teacher. They may also work on their own or as part of a small group. Learning is hands-on and takes place through touching, seeing, hearing, exploring and experimenting.

Some of the activities children may participate in include:

- designing and creating cubbies
- dressing up
- climbing
- dancing
- doing puzzles
- making collages
- listening to and playing music
- painting
- drawing
- reading books and storytelling
- playing with clay, play dough, blocks, sand and water.

Through these learning experiences children will develop skills, understandings and values in mathematics, science, English, the arts, technology and enterprise, health and physical education, and society and the environment. These are the learning areas of the Western Australian Curriculum Framework.

Preparing for kindergarten

How can I help my child move easily into kindergarten?

Getting excited about kindergarten will make the transition easier for both you and your child.

Before your child starts kindergarten you can:

- make sure your child knows they will soon be going to kindergarten
- talk positively about kindergarten
- go past the school regularly and point out that they will soon be going there
- visit the kindergarten with your child and let them meet the kindergarten staff
- ask the teacher if you and your child can stay so you can see all the fun activities that happen while at kindergarten
- attend any organised parent open days and information sessions
- read books to your child about starting school and kindergarten.

