

Preparing for pre-primary

How can I help my child move easily into pre-primary?

Be excited! The more excitement you show about your child moving into pre-primary, the more at ease they will feel. Most children will already have attended kindergarten, although this may have been at another school or centre. Other things you can do to help:

- Encourage your child to develop independence by giving them responsibility for tasks such as putting their bag away. This will give them the confidence to participate in other activities.
- Try to stick to the same routine every day, such as arriving, putting belongings away, putting lunch away. This will give your child a clear idea of what to expect each day.
- Encourage your child to talk about their day with you. This will allow you to understand what they enjoy and anything you may need to discuss with staff.
- Get to know the people at your pre-primary. By talking to the staff directly involved in your child's development, you can find out about their progress and any concerns.
- Let staff know if there are any family circumstances that may affect your child's time at pre-primary. This will allow staff to pay special attention to your child.

Who can I contact to get more information about pre-primary at my local public school?

Parents are encouraged to visit their local public pre-primary and speak to the principal or 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

Life's Launching Pad Starting Pre-primary



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



The pre-primary program in your local public school builds on the kindergarten program. It provides fun and exciting learning opportunities that further develop important skills, knowledge and attitudes to learning. Pre-primary programs allow children to develop independence, confidence, curiosity, friendships, cooperation and resilience.

When can children start pre-primary?

Children can start pre-primary if they have turned five by 30 June in that year.

How often can children attend pre-primary?

Pre-primary programs in public schools are five full days per week.

Is pre-primary compulsory?

Enrolment in pre-primary is not compulsory. However, more than ninety-five percent of children in Western Australia attend a pre-primary program.

What happens at pre-primary?

Attending the pre-primary program at your local public school is an excellent way to prepare your child for:

- social and personal learning
- developing early literacy and numeracy skills
- developing language skills
- developing independence and confidence in learning
- learning about health and physical activity
- learning to function individually and as part of a group
- thinking actively
- developing problem solving skills.

What will I be asked when I enrol my child in pre-primary at a public school?

When you enrol your child in a pre-primary program in a public school, you will be asked to provide information about:

- your child's additional or special needs
- any medical problems or allergies
- any custody or access issues
- all emergency contacts.

This information will assist staff to develop a learning program that will support and be responsive to your child's development needs while providing a safe and secure place for them to learn.

