



Supporting successful transitions

Information for families

Starting school is an exciting and significant time in every child's life.

A positive start to school can lead to children developing a lifelong love of learning.

In Queensland, early childhood education and care services, schools and families are encouraged to work in partnership to ensure all children enjoy a successful transition to school.

What is transition to school?

Transition to school begins well before a child starts school and ends when your child feels safe, secure and a sense of belonging at school.

It involves a range of partners working together to provide experiences that will help your child gain the skills and confidence they need to adjust to their new school environment.

Orientation activities that help your child become familiar with their new school environment and routines are an important component of your child's transition to school.

What does it mean for my child?

Successful transition programs can improve social skills, reduce behavioural problems and ultimately improve academic outcomes.

In Queensland, there is a statewide approach for the development and implementation of transition-to-school programs.

All partners in your child's support network will play an important role in your child's transition to school.

Your child's early childhood education and care service, their new school and relevant community organisations work together to help you and your child feel prepared for and confident to start school.

How can I help prepare my child for school?

Children who can play cooperatively with others, explain their thoughts, ideas and feelings and follow routines and directions are socially and emotionally prepared for school. There are many simple ways you as a parent can encourage your child's development of these skills.

Talking with your child about what they see and understand about everyday family events is a simple way you can support your child's development.

Reading together, especially stories about change or starting school will develop your child's language, thinking and literacy skills. Visit your local library or ask your child's early childhood teacher for recommendations on books to read.

Enrolling your child in a Queensland Government-approved kindergarten program is an important way you can help prepare them for Prep. Kindergarten programs help children develop a love of learning, build their confidence and make friends in the year before they start school.

As it gets closer to the start of school, set up a morning and evening routine to help reduce the number of changes they will experience. The routine can include packing their lunch box, dressing themselves, practising the trip to school.

Helping your child to work out answers to problems or concerns will help them develop coping strategies and make them more independent and confident. Encourage them to ask for help if they need it and talk to their new Prep teacher, another staff member or an older 'school buddy' about their concerns.

Talk to your child's early childhood teacher to get their suggestions for other ways you can help prepare your child for school.

How can I support my child's transition to school?

You have an important role in your child's transition to school. Here are some helpful hints on ways you can support them:

- get to know other Prep children and their families as soon as appropriate, as building these relationships can foster a sense of belonging for you and your child

- know your child's concerns and provide comfort and support by talking together
- speak positively about their new school
- get to know your child's new school and the staff by participating in school orientation activities
- contribute to the development of your child's Transition Statement and provide a copy of the completed statement to your child's Prep teacher.

As a parent, you know your child best. Talking to the Prep teacher about your child's other prior-to-school experiences will also help them understand and prepare to meet your child's learning, social and emotional needs.

More information

Visit www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/about/successful-transitions for more information on:

- the statewide approach to transitions
- transition resources for families
- Transition Statements.

