

Teach your Child Basic Road Safety

Every child should have a basic understanding of road signs and road crossing procedures.



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

The benefits of good relationships 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. We will try to answer your questions as honestly and completely as we can.



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", 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. Encourage hobbies and games that require "hands-on" mathematical skills. Avoid confusion by checking methods being taught at school before helping your child.



To prepare children to read...

Talk to your children from the earliest age. Surround them with language: explain, question and read. Encourage them to talk about their own experiences, to play with words. Tell and re-tell stories of all kinds. Have a bedtime ritual of story reading. Encourage the children to 'read' with you. Get them to comment on the illustrations. Run your finger underneath the print as you read. Leave out occasional words and encourage them to put it in. Make simple word games, such as cutting words from magazines and matching them with pictures.

WORONGARY STATE SCHOOL

Suggestions for Parents

The first years of School:

Parents and Teachers as Partners

From the "Primary English Teachers' Association"



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

PARENTS AND TEACHERS

The better the bridge between home and school, the better the education: that is the message of recent research. We look forward to our partnership with us 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 classrooms. 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 he or she is 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 25 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 seashore, 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 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, and questions are at the heart of investigation, and therefore learning.

Listening to and answering these questions seriously will help your child remain an active and curious learner. Don't be put off 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. Your children are natural investigators. Don't always tell them all the answer, 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 mother and fathers or school.



Share Reading Experiences

At five and six the bedtime story is as 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, even rediscover the fun of old favourites. If in doubt about which book to choose, ask your librarian or your child's teacher to recommend some.



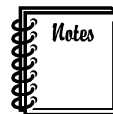
Encourage Drawing and Writing at Home

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



Sometimes Write 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, noticeboard or fridge.



Put TV Viewing in its Proper Perspective

Most children enjoy watching TV, but they also need time for play, reading and being out doors - time for doing lots of things. Choose carefully what and how much your child watches on television. Sometimes ask questions about the program.



Ensure that Your Child has a Good Knowledge of the Route from School

Could your child find his or her 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.