

LEARNING BLOCKS

Learning Blocks Transition to School Program

At Learning Blocks we know the importance of an effective transition to school program. Our transition to school program ensures that your child is well equipped with the developmental skills and knowledge for a smooth transition to the school environment.

Our Philosophy identifies our commitment to providing the highest quality care and education. This is reflected in the day to day running of our preschool rooms and the curriculum that our qualified Educators provide the children.

Our transition to school program is reflective of, and guided by The Early Years Learning Framework. This framework focuses on Educators facilitating children's learning through an enriching curriculum, giving children ample opportunities which shapes children's evolving knowledge, skills and capabilities.

The children's learning is captured through the use of the five Learning Outcomes, taking into consideration that children learn in different ways and at a different pace. Learning is viewed to be ongoing as children progress towards the Learning Outcomes in different yet equally meaningful ways.

Educators track, document and display children's learning, progress and achievements through the use of various forms of documentation such as jottings, learning stories, work samples, videos and photos. These are accessible to parents at all times via Lifecubby, children's educational journals and the project walls found in the rooms.

We focus on preparing your child by:

- Partnering with parents to develop skills, abilities, and characteristics that prepare your child to become a successful learner.
- Working in a holistic learning environment, so that your child will develop an understanding and awareness of school routines, rules, and expectations.
- Providing a learning environment that supports early literacy and numeracy.
- Support and enhance your child's social and emotional development in preparation for 'big school'.

Kindergarten! ... here I come!



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What skills do we help develop in order for children to be 'ready' to transition to school?

At Learning Blocks, our transition to school program assists to increase your child's awareness and understanding of letter sounds, numbers, increased opportunity to learn new skills, as well as refining existing abilities and enhancing their social and emotional skills. It operates on the philosophy that constant exposure in a stimulating environment is the best way children learn.

Our Transition to School Program operates as per NSW school terms. Literacy and numeracy are a significant aspect and the learning experiences provided, give children frequent exposure to various sounds and numbers. It also assists to enhance their pre-reading, literacy and pre-writing skills. Our program also explores various numeracy concepts such as sequencing, counting, number and quantity. This enhances children's awareness of various concepts of mathematics and promotes mathematical thinking and problem solving skills.

Our transition to school program is presented in a stage appropriate way that promotes interest and assists your child in becoming an active learner. This assists your child to develop to their full potential.

If you're unsure of whether to send your child to school or not or have any concerns regarding your child's development, a meeting with your child's educator at Learning Blocks can be arranged. These meetings can be face to face formal meetings or a scheduled phone call to discuss your children's overall skills and development.

In the year before each child goes to school they will receive a Learning Blocks transition to school workbook. This will consist of the Transition to School Program structure and information of what will be taught each term as well as corresponding skills based activities. The workbook is not compulsory, and we encourage parents to take these home once a week to do an activity at home with your child. Please remember learning should be a positive experience for pre-schoolers, never force your child to sit and complete tasks. The aim is for preschoolers to develop these skills over time to build their confidence and knowledge at their own pace.



How do I decide if my child is 'ready' for school?

There are a lot of factors to consider when deciding whether to send your child to school. It is important that you consider your child's abilities and stage of development, not just their age. Remember the legal age for children to start school is the year they are turning six not five.

Learning Blocks will provide you with an informative Transition to School Statement which may help you decide if your child is ready. We also conduct mid-year Educator/Parent interviews.

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Points for consideration regarding 'school readiness'

- What advice has your pre-school teacher given you?
- The legal age for starting school in N.S.W is six not five.
- The current recommendations are girls to be five years of age before April. Boys to be five years of age before February, in the year they commence school.
- Is your child socially/emotionally ready?
This is of far more important than your child's academic abilities.
- Can your child cooperate with others? Especially their peer group?
- Does your child have the ability to share?
- Is your child's attention span increasing?
- Does your child display attentiveness in group situations?
- Does your child respond positively to guidance given by adults?
- Does your child separate from you easily?
- Does your child display confidence?
- Can your child make friends easily?
- Can your child verbalise needs/ wants?
- Is your child able to care for their belongings appropriately?

** Please note that these are just points to consider. If your child does not appear to display one, two or a few of the above mentioned, it does not mean that they are not showing readiness for school. If you have any questions in relation to your child's readiness for school, please speak to your child's teacher.

Things parents can encourage at home

Here are a few things that you can encourage your child to do at home to assist with your child's transition to school:

- Encourage recognition of your child's name, objects, colours, numbers etc.
- Encourage the use of their self-help skills such as: how to look after their possessions, how to dress themselves and how to put on their own shoes, tie laces etc
- Facilitate your child's learning through discussions, asking questions, counting and writing.
- Read to your child each day. Research has found huge benefits for children who read daily.
- Encourage personal hygiene such as when to use a tissue, cover mouth when coughing.

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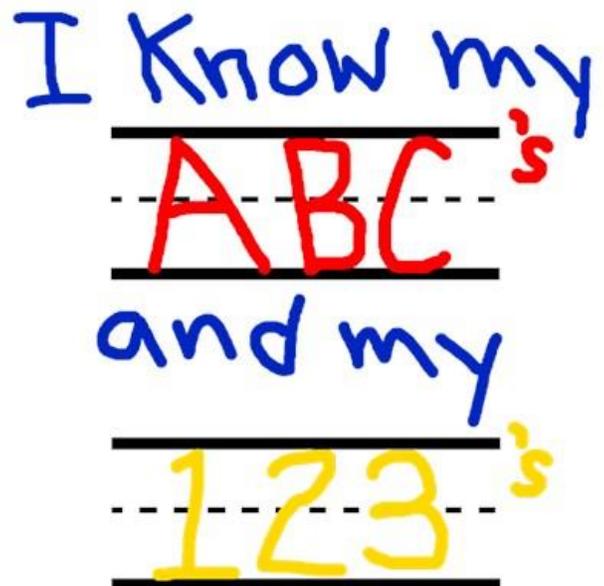
- Show your child how to use and flush the toilet. Your child needs to be responsible for wiping their own bottom. Boys should be shown how to use a urinal.
- Writing your child's name. However this is not imperative for establishing 'readiness' for school. Finding and providing opportunities to write and draw will be beneficial.
- Independence. Allow your child to begin packing their pre-school bag in preparation for packing their belongings for school
- Allow your child to carry their own bag and walk into pre-school so they are already used to this when starting school.

Additional tips for Parents to further children's skills and development

Literacy

Literacy is a key foundation to learning. Talking and an awareness of sounds, form a strong base for reading success. The development of literacy skills is needed to understand information and communicate ideas.

- Read to your child at least once a day, rhyme and discuss books with your child
- Draw with your child
- Sing with your child
- Attaching meaning to words. For example, a child may know how to read the words, 'Ball' 'Roll' or 'circle' but do they understand the meaning of these words?
- Listen, talk and engage in conversations with your child regularly



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Numeracy

Numeracy is all around us and used throughout life. Here are some ways you can encourage the use of numeracy in everyday life with your child:

- Cooking experiences: measuring ingredients
- Counting objects
- Sorting items of clothing such as buttons and matching socks
- Engaging in various types of play such as block play allows your child to think mathematically in relation to size, shape and space

Self-help Skills

Encourage your child to use their self-help skills. This will assist your child's independence to grow prior to starting to school and whilst they are at big school. You can build your child's confidence by providing your child with small, achievable tasks such as:

- Encourage your child to dress themselves
- Assist with simple housework such as folding the washing, setting up the table
- Encourage your child to toilet independently
- Encourage your child to pack their own bag for preschool.

Remember!

- ✓ Enjoy the journey
- ✓ Transition to school should be stress free for your family and child
- ✓ Never try to compare your child with others, all children are unique and develop at various stages to other children
 - ✓ Talk to your centre director or your child's educator if you are concerned.
 - ✓ Attend local school open days at the local schools
 - ✓ Talk to your child about starting school
 - ✓ Meet and collaborate with other parents to share information.

Important Dates for preschoolers

- Transition to school statements will be completed by end of May
- Parent and Educator interviews will be conducted by the end of June
- We recommend that you enrol your child into a school for the following year by July/August orientation days usually commence as early as September.

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Learning Blocks Partnership with local Schools

At Learning Blocks, we have developed a strong partnership with some of our local schools. We work in collaboration with the kindergarten teachers to ensure that we are well equipped with the most up to date information of how to best prepare the children at Learning Blocks for big school the following year.

Our directors and preschool Educators visit the kindergarten classrooms two times a year, once in the beginning of the year and second towards the end of the year. During these visits, our Educators collaborate with the kindergarten teachers in relation to the transition to school program, child development and strategies used to assist in best transitioning children into big school.

Our local schools are also invited to join us on our Transition to school evenings. This gives the schools the opportunity to inform families more about their school and what they offer as well as for families to be able to learn more about the local schools around and what school they feel is best suited for their child.



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Education &
Communities

Office of Education

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NSW Transition to School Statement

Transition to School Statement

Our preschool educators prepare a transition to school statement for the children attending school the following year. The transition to school statement is a practical and simple tool to make it easier for information to be shared between families, early childhood services and schools.

The transition to school statement summarises your child's strengths, identifies their interests and approaches to learning and suggests way these can be supported.

Families are provided with their child's transition to school statement in May. If families require the document prior to May, this can be arranged with your child's educator.

Parent and Educator Interviews

Once families have received their child's transition to school statement, they can arrange a meeting with their child's educator to discuss the information on the child's transition to school statement, your child's development and any concerns or questions you may have.

Parent and educator interviews are conducted during the month of June at Learning Blocks. These meetings can be done in person or over the phone with your child's educator.

"The Learning Block team has made my life so much easier and stress free by ensuring my daughter is well taken care of and developing herself in all areas. I am very picky when choosing something for my daughter and there was nothing that I could fault in the team. They provide a safe, clean and entertaining environment for the kids, what more can I ask for. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the team from the bottom of my heart. Please continue to keep doing what you are doing."

Kawser and Quazi

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List of Local Schools

Barnier Public School – 120 Barnier Drive Quakers Hill

Phone: 9837 1600 Email: barnier-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Quakers Hill Public School – Medlow Drive Quakers Hill

Phone: 9626 9284 Email: quakershil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Quakers Hill East Public School – 14 Chase Drive Acacia Gardens

Phone: 9561 8121 Email: quakershie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Hambledon Public School – 35 Bali Drive Quakers Hill

Phone: 9837 1534 Email: hambledon-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Mary Immaculate – 125 Barnier Drive, Quakers Hill (private)

Phone: 9626 3999 Email: mimmac@parra.catholic.edu.au

Useful Websites

NSW Public Education – <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Customer Service Line for Public Schools NSW – 13 15 36

Video: Transition to School Statement:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=s7wFLenI9yU

Getting Ready for School Handbook:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/schoolsweb/gotoschool/primary/gettingreadyforschool.pdf>

