

**Achieving personal excellence in a safe,  
respectful learning environment**



# Gardeners Road Public School

## School Readiness

Starting School is a major milestone in life and can be a very rewarding experience for your child and your family. Teachers and parents can work together to help children settle happily into school.

### **Important Skills for Children starting school**

- Using the toilet independently
- Following verbal instructions / directions
- Dressing and undressing ( jumper, Hat, paint shirt, shoes and socks)
- Recognising own name in print
- Looking after own belongings
- Sharing with peers
- Expressing needs and wants
- Holding pencil to make marks on paper
- Keeping still for a short period of time and listening
- Separating from parents at school
- Taking turns
- Speaking clearly
- Identifying own bag and belongings
- Opening lunch box and packaging
- Using handkerchief / tissue

### **Leaving your Child**

- Help your child to find a friend before you leave
- Take the cue from the teacher— sometimes children calm quickly when parents leave
- Ring the school for reassurance if you are worried
- Reassure your child that you will be there when school finishes
- Talk to your child and teacher if you need to make alternative arrangement such as another person doing pick up
- Always let the school know if you are running late



Children are experts at picking up on their parents emotions— **Share your positive feelings about starting school with your child.**

## Sample skills suitable for most children starting Kindergarten

Starting school will be a little easier if children have some of these skills. Encourage your child to attempt these things but don't worry if they can't do all of them.

### Language

- Talks to other people about familiar objects and events
- Answers and asks simple questions
- Makes needs known
- Follows simple instructions
- Uses books for enjoyment or for looking at pictures
- Identifies pictures in magazines or on screen
- Uses a variety of implements (pens, pencils, textas, crayons) to draw, scribble or write
- Joins in familiar songs or nursery rhymes
- Enjoys listening to stories

### Mathematics

- Recognizes that numbers can be used to count
- Uses and recognizes concepts such as many, a lot, more, less, small, smaller
- Identifies things in a group that are different
- Recognizes different shapes
- Understands opposites such as up/down and over/under

### Personal and Social Skills

- Uses the toilet independently
- Can say own name and address
- Adapts to unfamiliar settings and new experiences
- Can finish a task and tidy up afterwards
- Shares and takes turns with other children
- Is beginning to understand and identify emotions
- Understands the concept of rules
- Understands it's ok to lose a game as well as win
- Respects other's property and belongings
- Can share an adult's attention with other children
- Participates in imaginative play

### Physical Skills

- Uses scissors to cut along a line
- Enjoys a variety of indoor and outdoor play

## Helping Children Learn

Parents, other family members and friends can help children by:

- Giving them lots of time and opportunity for play
- Listening to them
- Answering their questions
- Talking with them about the things they are interested in
- Looking at books together
- Singing and nursery rhymes
- Reading and telling stories
- Playing games to recognize the sounds made by letters of the alphabet
- Enjoying "pretend" play
- Including them in activities such as shopping, washing the car, visiting the park, working in the yard or visiting or library
- Providing materials to make things
- Sharing their excitement about reading and learning
- Modelling reading and writing as part of everyday life such as shopping lists and filling out forms
- Providing encouragement, appreciation and acceptance
- Supporting them to maintain their home language while learning English

### Provide Your Child with Practice in:

- Talking with children and adults and communicating their needs
- Playing with other children
- Spending time with others
- Following simple directions
- Sharing and taking turns
- Going to the toilet independently and washing their hands afterwards
- Putting on and taking off jumpers
- Recognizing and looking after belongings
- Opening and closing lunch boxes and school bags
- Packing their school bag for the day ahead

