

## Important Tips

### 1. Make an Appointment and Visit the School

Become familiar with where the classrooms and toilets are located. Encourage your child to have a play on the playground equipment.

### 2. Meet the Teacher

It's important parents are positive about schooling and teachers, so their child sees their teacher as a friend.

### 3. Go Shopping

Be enthusiastic about buying a school bag, a uniform and lunch box (make sure it's easy to open).

### 4. Talk about school

Explain what will happen at school. Talk about the good times you had at school.

Play pretend school. Take turns in being the teacher.

**5. Motor co-ordination and skills** are necessary because children need to dress and undress, unwrap their lunch and use a pencil and scissors.

**Practise these skills at home.**

## For Further Information:

### Phone:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| The Salvation Army<br>Communities for Children | <b>6234 2299</b>    |
| Tasmanian Parenting Hotline                    | <b>1300 808 178</b> |
| Parenting Centre                               | <b>6233 2700</b>    |
| Child Health and Parenting Service<br>Brighton | <b>6268 4244</b>    |
| Oatlands                                       | <b>6254 5040</b>    |
| New Norfolk                                    | <b>6262 2833</b>    |
| The Tasmanian Education<br>Department          | <b>1800 816 057</b> |
| Learning Services South East                   | <b>6212 3119</b>    |

### Useful Websites:

[www.education.tas.gov.au/early-learning](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/early-learning)  
[www.abc.net.au/parenting](http://www.abc.net.au/parenting)  
[www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au)  
[www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au)  
[www.earlywords.info](http://www.earlywords.info)



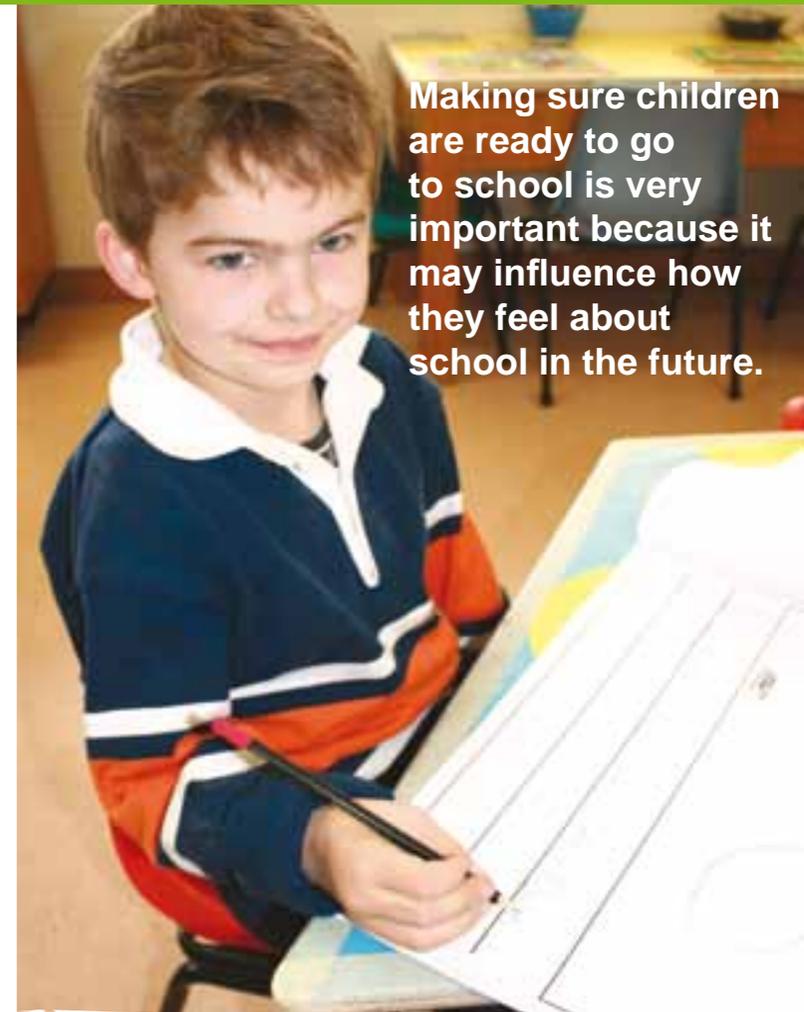
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Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

[www.communitiesforchildren.org.au](http://www.communitiesforchildren.org.au)  
Phone us on: 6234 22 99

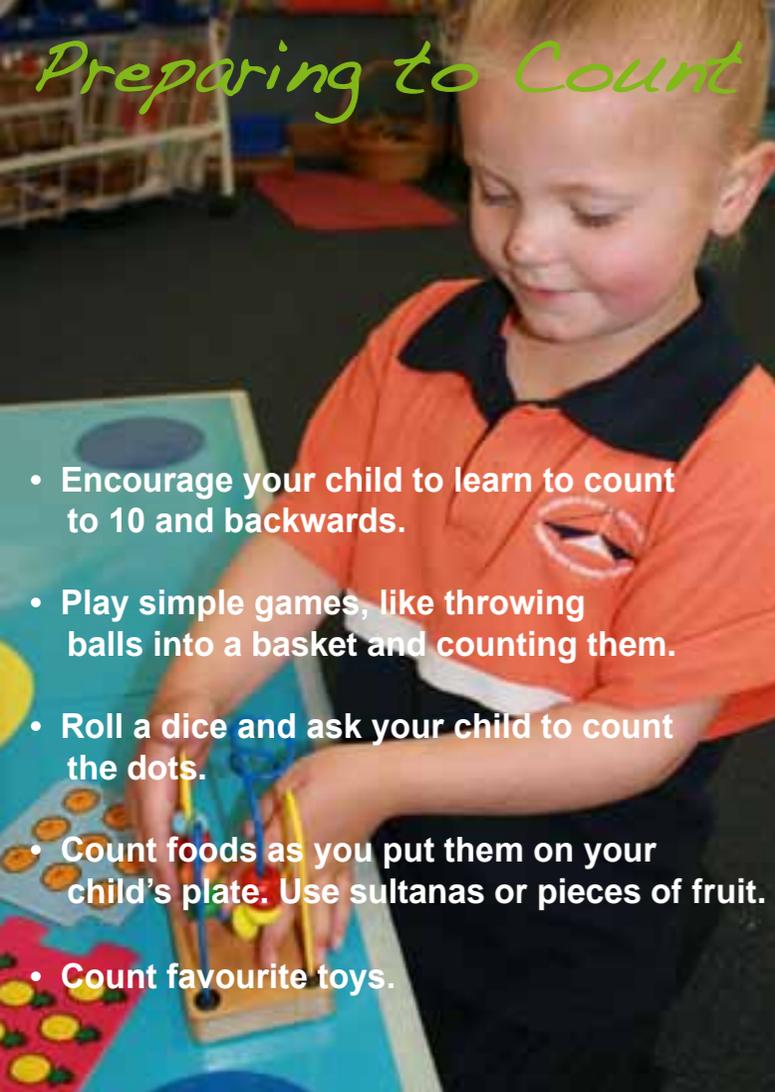
*Get Ready,  
Get Set,  
Go to  
School*



**Tips for School Readiness**



Making sure children are ready to go to school is very important because it may influence how they feel about school in the future.



## Preparing to Count

- Encourage your child to learn to count to 10 and backwards.
- Play simple games, like throwing balls into a basket and counting them.
- Roll a dice and ask your child to count the dots.
- Count foods as you put them on your child's plate. Use sultanas or pieces of fruit.
- Count favourite toys.

## Preparing to Read

- **Read lots of books to your child.** Children love to hear their favourite books over and over again.
- **Point to the words** in the book.
- **Find letters**, like the first letter in your child's name.

**“Read three books a day from birth. This helps reading development and develops children's listening skills”.**

*Tania Rafferty, Kindergarten Teacher*



## Learning to Write

Give children many opportunities to **draw**.  
Help them recognise and **write their name**. (Make sure they are using the correct pencil grip, not holding the pencil in their fist).

Practise making the shape of letters.

**“Contact local schools and find out what sort of pre-school programs are available such as play groups. These develop children's social skills and make parents feel welcomed into the school”.**

*Karen Shaw, Kindergarten teacher*



## Developing Language Skills

These are important because children need to follow directions, answer the teachers questions and talk to other students.

- Sing **nursery rhymes** and other songs
  - Read **classical fairy tales** like: The Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man, Three little Pigs and Cinderella.
- Say “I SPY with my little eye, something beginning with ... (It's best to say the letter sounds, not letter name, because we use letter sounds to spell).

**Everyday activities provide opportunities to develop language skills:**

- Write a shopping list together
- Go exploring in the park or beach
- Encourage **QUESTIONS**
- Help your child to learn **colours** and **shapes**

