



Successful transitions

Making a smooth transition to Year One

The **Preparatory year** aims to build skills and ideas that help children to be successful as they begin compulsory schooling and make a **smooth transition into Year One**.

Children find it easier to make the transition into school when they:

- are **confident** and are gradually becoming more **independent** and responsible for themselves, materials and learning
- **get on well** with other people (adults and children)
- are **healthy**, energetic and have good **physical skills**
- can **listen** well, **speak** clearly and communicate ideas confidently
- are **interested in** exploring **reading, viewing and writing**
- are **interested in** exploring numbers and **mathematical ideas**
- can use **different thinking approaches** and enjoy solving problems
- are **interested in investigating** and finding out about their world
- can generate new ideas, use their **imagination** and be creative.



Some transition issues for children

When children move into **any** new **situation** they face **new challenges**, for example:

- **getting to know new people** (their teacher, tutor, classmates and making friends)
- knowing **what to do** and when and **how to do it**
- learning **new routines and** trying new/less familiar **activities**
- meeting **new expectations** (of their teacher, tutor and/or classmates).

Ways to help your child

To help your child manage new situations and avoid worrying:

- always **talk positively about school**, the teacher, Year One, the activities and learning your child will enjoy
e.g. You are really ready for school learning. I will help you to learn about writing. Jack enjoys using the computer for school and I think you will too.
- tell and show your child that you **have confidence in them** and their ability to learn
- talk about the ways **Year One** is **similar to Prep** and what they already know and can do that will help them to manage new/different activities/learning
- make sure your child knows that **people will help them** to learn bit by bit (there is no rush) and gradually manage new rules, routines, activities and learning expectations



- **talk positively with other parents/tutors**/the teacher about school and your child (children listen to what adults say and like to know you are happy and supportive of them and what they are doing)
- talk about ways to **break up the day** so they can enjoy both focused learning tasks and more playful/active tasks
- encourage your child to **share information** about themselves and enjoy finding out about their teacher, school and class
- **set up the room** so it is an **enjoyable** and interesting place to be.

Some transition issues for adults

Adults also face **new challenges** in a new situation. When their child starts Year One, they might:

- wonder if their child is ready for school
- feel sad because their child is growing up
- try to teach skills the child is not ready for (which can be frustrating and negative for the child and adult)
- worry about managing another child's/children's learning program
- be concerned about the school's/teacher's expectations of them.

Some ideas to help you manage new situations

- **Talk** to your child's teacher **about** your **questions** and/or **concerns**.
- **Talk honestly** about your **child's abilities**, learning needs and interests.
- **Appreciate the uniqueness** of your child and that being ready for Year One can involve different things for each child.
- **Be confident** that the **Prep program** has developed the skills your child needs for Year One and that your child's teacher will let you know if your child needs to learn/practise any skills before starting Year one.
- **Talk** to other tutors/parents **about** the '**good ideas**' they use to manage new situations/Year One.
- **Be flexible** and allow yourself and your child time to settle in to the new program.
- **Avoid looking for problems**. Focus on what is working/how to make it work better and build on successes.

