



HELPING TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Beginning school is a big change for your child.

There are lots of things that you can do to help make this experience fun and help your child begin school confidently.

Some ways to help your child become more independent

- Talk about what your child might expect, such as: meeting new friends, singing, drawing and colouring
- Read stories or watch suitable programmes about beginning school

Practise:

- putting on and taking off items of clothing (eg. jumpers, managing zips & button) and shoes
- using a handkerchief or tissue
- eating and drinking independently (opening and closing lunchboxes, removing cling wrap etc.
- toilet independently – including washing hands properly and flushing the toilet correctly
- recognising their own name on bags, tubs, book etc.
- saying their own name and perhaps their own phone number

Encourage your child:

- to play with groups of children
- to play on and use playground equipment safely
- to take turns and share
- to take care of personal property as well as the property of others
- to pack away equipment after use and to help perform small responsible 'jobs' in the house eg. putting away clothes, wiping down a table, tidying up & putting away toys
- to be cared for by someone other than yourself for a few hours (eg. with grandma, at a friend or relative's house)

You can help by:

- Labelling clearly all items of clothing, books and other possessions that belong to your child
- **Allowing your child to attend transition programs, which help your child to become familiar with Corpus Christi and some of the routines**, their future classmates and the type of activities they will be doing when they start school.

The above ideas help your child to begin school feeling happy and safe as well as secure in their environment and ready to start school.