



Hints and Tips for Starting Kindergarten

Things to practice before starting kindergarten

- Holding a pencil properly
- Writing their first name
- Recognising their own name
- Using scissors
- Tying shoe laces
- Doing up buttons
- Knowing how to ask to go to the toilet
- Toilet hygiene
- Following simple instructions
- Knowing what food is for little lunch (recess) and what food is for big lunch
- How to open and close their drink bottle
- Knowing if they will go on the walker's line, or on a bus, and which bus is theirs

Hints about school bags & personal items

- It's a good idea to put a small key ring or figure on your child's bag for easy recognition as all the school bags will look the same.
- Ensure your child's lunchbox, small containers, drink bottle, clothing and other items are clearly labelled and easy for your child to recognise.

Hints for the first day of school

- Introduce your child to their teacher
- Inform the teacher who will collect your child
- Take your child to the class lines
- At the conclusion of the morning assembly, say goodbye and leave
- If your child becomes upset try to reassure them or give them to the teacher. The quicker you leave, the quicker they will calm down and get into a classroom routine
- When you come to collect your child – SMILE – they've survived their first day at school

Suggestions for parents

- Make your child feel good about themselves and about learning. Encourage every effort. Try to praise rather than criticise
 - Read to them from the earliest age. There is no better way to create the desire to read. This should be a daily occurrence
 - Give gifts of simply-written and well-illustrated books on a whole range of topics, both fiction and non-fiction
 - Encourage children to write regularly in a variety of ways – letters, diaries, factual accounts, imaginative stories etc
 - Try to cultivate a sense of number, size, length, height, width, volume, area, weight and time in everyday life. Join with them in estimating, counting, calculating etc
 - Discuss everyday happenings. Encourage questions and show how answers can be found
 - Regularly give them one of the most precious gifts you can – **your time!**
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