

## IS MY CHILD READY TO START SCHOOL?

All children are unique. All children develop different skills at varying rates. As parents, try to avoid becoming involved in the competitive race with other parents, comparing your individual children. By going against the grain of your child's own personal development, it can be more detrimental than beneficial; affecting their confidence and self-esteem towards themselves and the learning process.

If you are anxious about the readiness of your child for school and want to help, then prioritise the following:

- Getting along with other children - Sharing and taking turns
- Handling emotions - Developing coping strategies when becoming upset
- Following simple instructions - Listening and responding appropriately
- Speaking - Ideally in full sentences, extending the use of vocabulary and conveying a message clearly and effectively
- Showing inquisitiveness - Being excited to learn and find out new information
- Improving fine and gross motor skills - Developing good small and large-scale movement control will assist children in accessing activities and using a range of tools and equipment
- Listening for sounds - Becoming aware of sounds in words
- Becoming increasingly independent - Personal hygiene, going to the toilet, getting dressed, having initiative to collect the required resources.

Try to avoid getting caught up too much in the academic ability and readiness of your child, because school will advance this process. Instead, prioritise your child's personal, social, emotional, communicative and physical skills; if these are strong, children are likely to learn confidently and progress well.