

Countdown to School Calendar July 2016 - June 2017

connect
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

COMMUNITY BASED
FAMILY SUPPORT

familiesNSW
supporting families to raise children



Supporting parents to help their children have a positive start to school



Time to enrol in school



To enrol you will need a Birth Certificate, Immunisation History Statement and proof of address.



Visit your local school and fill out an enrolment form...



Understanding School Talk????
SDD
Staff Development Day
Children do not attend school on these days

When visiting your school ask about orientation days, transition to school programs and open days.

Visit your local school



July 2016

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 End of Term 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Staff Development Day | 19 School Returns Term 3 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Things to do...

Visit your local school and fill out an enrolment form

Find out what transition to school programs or orientation sessions they have. Pop the dates into this calendar



School Holidays

Learning through play

Playing games with dice and counters helps develop numeracy and turn taking skills.

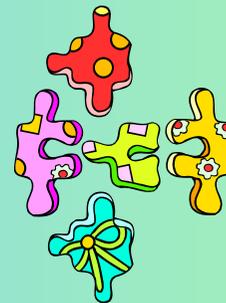
Play simple card games like 'Snap', 'Memory' or 'Go Fish'. Children are using hand and finger muscles to hold the cards, as well as taking turns and matching.

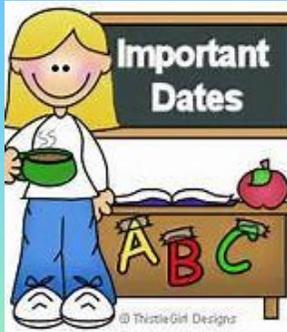


Pretend play develops many skills that will help children at school. Skills to help with friendships, communication with others and using their body.

Building together with Lego and blocks strengthens the muscles in children's hands which helps them when learning to write.

Understanding School Talk??
D of E
NSW Department of Education





August 2016

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Things to do...

Read through the first Kids Matter transition booklet titled 'Setting the Scene', you can find it on our Website, (address on the back of this calendar), or on the Kids Matter website.



Education Week

Encouraging a love of reading



Talking and listening
is the foundation of
reading so play games
with words and rhymes.

It's great to read the same
book many times. Talk about
the pictures together.

Talking and reading
with your child will
give them a great
start to school!



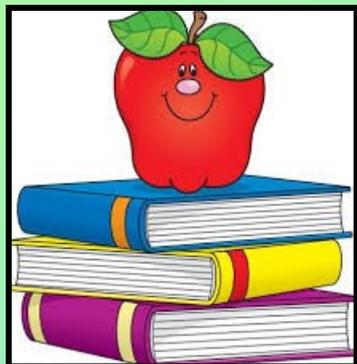
Let your child TELL you
the story even if they
can't read the words.



Understanding School talk????
DP
Deputy Principal

Ask your child questions about the story.
"Who did you like best in the story?"
"What did you like about them?"
"What do you think might happen next?"





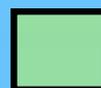
Things to do...

Contact the school to confirm orientation and transition session times.



September 2016

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Fathers day |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 End of Term 3 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |



School Holidays

Writing and drawing

Offer different writing and drawing tools. Try writing or drawing with chalk on a path, sticks in the sand or painting with water outside.



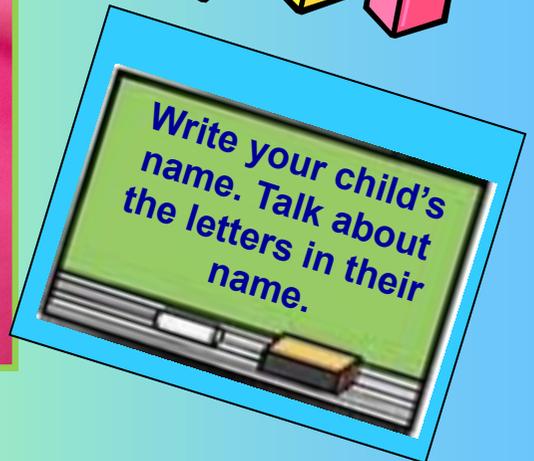
Understanding School Talk????
KLA's
Key Learning Areas
The different subject areas taught at school



Playing with dough, pegs, Lego and other building blocks will help to build the muscles in your child's hands. This will help with writing



Write your child's name. Talk about the letters in their name.





Things to do...

Practice your
childs' independency
skills e.g.
Opening lunchbox
containers, drink
bottles etc.



*Daylight Saving
Time Begins*

October 2016

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Day light saving begins |
| 3 Labour day Public Holiday | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 School Returns Term 4 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |



School Holidays

Encourage Independence

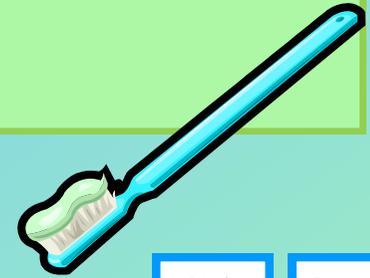


Give your child little jobs to do at home such as make their bed, put their clothes away or set the table. Praise them when they complete the task.

Set a regular bedtime routine: toilet, clean teeth and read a story in bed. Children need plenty of sleep!



Encourage your child to dress themselves.



Girls

Boys

Encourage your child to drink water as a healthy choice.



Has your child used a public toilet? Talk with your child about the symbols on the doors and using only the boys or girls toilets.

Understanding School Talk??
AP
Assistant Principal



November 2016

Things to do..

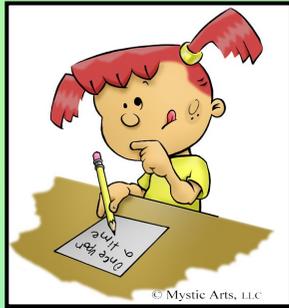
Visit the local library and borrow picture books about starting school.

Have a look at our website for great children's picture book titles. Address is on the back of this calendar.

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

Summer time...

Use opportunities to write.
Messages, notes, letters etc.
Watching adults writing messages
shows children that writing is
important and is another form of
communication.



Understanding School Talk??
Mufti Day
Out of Uniform Day
Children wear ordinary clothes that
day.





December 2016

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|---|-----|------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Last Day School End of term 4 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Staff Development Day | 20 Staff Development Day | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas day |
| 26 Boxing day Public Holiday | 27 Boxing day additional Public holiday | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Things to do...

Relax and enjoy time together prior to your child starting school.



School Holidays

Can your child use a public toilet?

Rehearsing for School

Do you have a uniform yet? Children love to dress up in their uniform. Let them wear their school shoes before they start school so they get used to them. They may need school uniforms, sports uniforms and a school hat too.



Pack a lunch box with healthy foods. Have picnics outside and encourage your child to open their lunch box.



Choose a lunchbox and drink bottle that is easy for your child to open!

Understanding School Talk??
EAL/D
English as an Additional Language or Dialect

Talk about the times and structures of the school days e.g.
“You would be going into school now.”
“This would be lunch time.”
“It would be time to come home now.”

Remember: Be positive when you talk about school.



January 2017

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 New Years Day |
| 2 New Years day Public Holiday | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Australia Day Public holiday | 27 Staff Development Day | 28 | 29 |
| 30 School Returns Term 1 | 31 | | | | | |

Things to do...

Check starting dates for my child's school.

Have camera ready for first day and make sure the battery is charged



School Holidays

Ensuring a positive start to school

Talk to your child about their day. Ask questions like...
"What was your favourite thing you did today?"

"Did you go into the playground? What did you do?"



Plan a play date with some friends from school.

Invite them to come and play at your house or meet at the park together.



If you have any concerns about your child, make an appointment to talk to the teacher.



Your child is coping with lots of new things. Be prepared, they may become tired and cranky sometimes!

Understanding School Talk??
COLA
Covered Outdoor Learning Area



February 2017

Things to do...

Check school notes and write upcoming events on your calendar.

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |

Learning is fun!



Children are naturally curious. Encourage their curiosity. It can lead to great discovery and learning!



"Play is the work of Childhood!"
Theorist, Piaget



Learning is fun—it is life's greatest adventure!!

Understanding School Talk??
ICT
Information and Communication Technology

"Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine." Early Years Learning Framework





Things to do...

Become involved in school life:

Ask the teacher if they need help with small groups

Attend P&C meetings if you can, to find out what is happening at the school

Offer your time to your child's teacher, there are lots of ways to help!

March 2017

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Supporting your child's learning

You will have the greatest influence on your child's attitudes towards school and learning. Always remain positive.



Remember:
Praise your child when they try something new. Taking risks and learning from our mistakes is an important life skill.



Even though your child is at school, play is still a very important way for them to learn and develop. Provide lots of opportunities for them to just PLAY!



Understanding School Talk??

ES1
Early Stage 1 - Kindergarten



Things to do...

Time for winter uniforms—make sure they are labelled with your child's name.



April 2017

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Day light saving ends |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 End of Term 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Good Friday Public holiday | 15 Easter Saturday | 16 Easter Sunday Public holiday |
| 17 Easter Monday Public holiday | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Staff Development Day | 25 Anzac Day Public holiday | 26 School Returns Term 2 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |



School Holidays

Helping your child learn to read

Talking and Listening is the foundation for reading. Talk often with your child. Play games with the sounds in words. Recite your child's favourite rhymes.

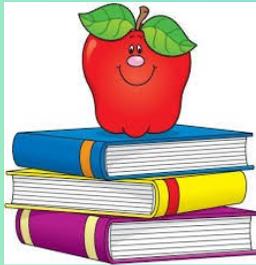
Make comments about the story -
"I loved the bit where..."
"My favourite part was...."
Encourage your child to comment -
"How did you feel about the story?"



'Pretend reading' is valuable— encourage your child's attempts.



Show your child you enjoy reading too!



School Talk??
HSIE
Human Society and Its Environment
(Social Studies)





May 2017

Things to do...

Check in with your child's teacher to see how they are going socially and emotionally at school.

Have a look on the Kids Matter website for helpful information on this important area of your child's development. Website address is located on the back of this calendar....

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Mother's Day |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

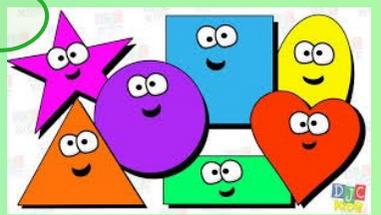
Helping your child with numeracy



Division is about sharing. We will share/divide a pizza among 4 people.



Learning about shapes is an important maths skill. Words like straight and curved are about shapes!



Grouping and matching are foundational number skills.

Numbers are about 'how much', 'how long' and 'how many'. Use opportunities to talk about more or less, longer or shorter, higher or lower, faster or slower.



Understanding School Talk???
OOSH
Out of School Hours Care
Centres which look after children before & after school.





June 2017

Things to do...

Reflect and look back on where you started mid last year when your family started this transition journey.

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Queen's Birthday Public holiday | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 End of Term 2 | | |



What are you looking forward to when you start school?
Draw a picture below.



Draw a picture of your first day at school on this page.



Need to Find a School?

Visit: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/index.php>
<http://www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au/sydney-schools.php>
Or talk to other parents to find your local school

Start the '100 stories before school' journey now with great activities and curriculum resources found right here...
<http://100storiesbeforeschool.com/using-100-stories/>

For more information on Transition to School, visit the Kids Matter website:

<https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/starting-school>

Visit www.earlywords.info for activities to support your child's language and literacy development.

What will my child be learning at school?
The curriculum is set out by Board of Studies
<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

Looking for some parenting support?
<http://www.raisingchildren.net.au/>
<http://www.resourcingparents.com.au/>

Visit <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/> for comprehensive 'school life' and homework support

This calendar has been developed by the Transition to School Project in Western Sydney. We also have developed a really useful website that is all about transitioning to school, not only will it help parents but educators alike, visit:

www.transitiontoschool.net

*The Western Sydney Transition to School
Project is funded by:*