

School time

As part of the Kindergarten experience, all children are introduced to a set curriculum. No matter what school children attend, they all follow the Australian Curriculum, which consists of six learning areas studied throughout primary school. These include English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Creative Arts, Human Society and Its Environment and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. At our school, we also study Religious Education.

The NSW Board of Education specifically stresses that there are no specific skills that children need to have before starting Kindergarten. In fact, much of the time in Kindergarten

is spent developing children's literacy and numeracy skills.



And on the first day?

1. Have everything prepared the day before
2. Get up early so there's no need to rush
3. Take lots of photos of this special occasion
4. Be sure to say a clear and cheerful goodbye to your child and resist the temptation to sneak off
5. Although it's a very emotional time for parents, be cheerful and positive
6. Be there early to pick them from their first day of school
7. Ask them questions about their day and be positive about them returning to school the following day

Children's lives are filled with many milestones and starting school should be a truly special occasion.

Lastly...

The best person to ensure that your child arrives at school ready to succeed is you!

Becoming involved in your child's education is a wonderful thing for you both.



Little Children, Big Steps

Starting Kindergarten

at

St Patrick's Parish School

Cooma



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The first step... getting to know us

As milestones go, starting school is a major event in a child's life and it's important that it is a positive experience. Your child is about to start on an **exciting learning journey**. You may be feeling a little nervous about how your child will cope with starting school. That's normal, but you don't need to worry. From the moment your child walks through the school gate on their first day you'll find our highly qualified teachers and support staff ready to help, and that level of support will continue throughout your child's school years.

Children starting Kindergarten need the best possible start. Our school plans a comprehensive orientation program that allows a gradual transition to school life at 'big' school.

The program is designed to familiarise children with new places and spaces and to provide positive learning experiences. The program provides time for teachers to get to know your child and observe what they currently know and can do. This information helps teachers plan ahead for next year.

To help you get to know us, we would like to invite you to attend an **Information Tour on Wednesday 4 June or Tuesday 10 June, starting at the Primary library in Vale St at 5.30pm**. A member of the Leadership Team will show you our school and answer your questions.

The second step...getting to know you

All new Kindergarten children and their parents are invited to attend an **interview** with their parents. This is a gentle conversation designed to be the first step in getting to know you.

Then our **BIG STEPS Program** begins with a visit to big school. There will be three opportunities to come to school to see a 'real kinder class'. There will be a 'visitor's chair' in a current Kinder class and the new Kindergarten child can join in simple activities. This happens in Term 3. Appointments need to be made for this by contacting the office.

In Term 4, all new Kindergarten children come to school three times; a morning, an afternoon and then another morning. They will be with the new group for 2015. We call this the **KINDER START Program**. The dates for this program will be in the letter of acceptance that you should receive after the interview.



Please make sure that you let us know that you are accepting a place at St Patrick's, so we can reserve a place for you in 2015.

The next step... getting ready

The following list provides ideas for you as you prepare your child for his/her first school experiences:

- Talk to your child about the STEPS and KINDER START programs
- Provide routine in your child's day by establishing regular times for meals and a scheduled bedtime.
- Give your child many opportunities for physical play outdoors.
- Encourage your child to become independent in dressing, eating and using the bathroom.
- Interact often with your child by talking, listening and playing.
- Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children to help them learn how to share and even to disagree with others sometimes.
- Encourage social skills such as helpfulness, cooperation and concern for others and model use of courteous language such as, 'please', 'thank you' and 'excuse me.'
- Encourage patience; not interrupting or calling out.
- Establish and consistently enforce reasonable limits for behaviour.
- Encourage work values such as persistence and initiative.
- Read to your child each day and talk to your child about pictures and stories.

