



Wondering about school: Children's investigations





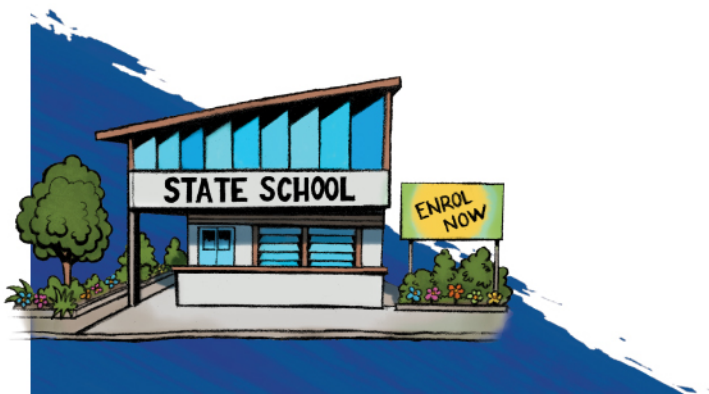
Our school community

When you enrol your child in a Queensland state school, you become part of our community:

- we see you as partners and will encourage your involvement
- we see all children as successful learners
- we will value your child's strengths, motivations and interests
- we will value your child's prior-to-school experiences
- we invite your family to participate in school activities
- we will be ready for your family.

Acknowledgment of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which our school stands, the Jinibara People, who lived and learned here long before us, and also acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within our community.



Principal's welcome



Starting school for the first time is an important event in the lives of children and their families. While some things will stay the same, like family and community connections and activities, other things will change, like new daily routines, roles, friends, feelings and places.

At this time, children's views and ideas offer important perspectives that can help families take positive approaches to the changes that come with starting school. A child's view brings insight into things that adults may not otherwise consider. For our school community, children's voices provide valuable feedback about what we can do to support children and families at this time.

The *Wondering about school: Children's investigations booklet* is a welcome gift from our school community to you at this special time.

It captures, in their own voices, the thoughts, feelings and experiences of children as they started at our school. The pictures and words in this booklet are the important messages current Prep children wanted other children to hear before starting school, to help them feel relaxed, safe and confident about their first weeks and months at school.

When you read this book together, we hope that their voices start conversations between you and your child to help you all make a positive start. We also hope that this booklet signals to you that we are excitedly preparing for your child's successful transition to our school community.

We look forward to welcoming you again at in January to continue your learning journey with us.

David Prete

Acting Principal

Mount Samson State School



Better together:

Helping children enjoy a positive start to school

This booklet respects the voices of children in their transition to school. It contains pictures and messages about school from Prep children in response to kindergarten children's questions. Sharing this book with your child offers you the chance to talk about some of the new experiences they may have in their first year of school.

There are lots of other ways you can help your child enjoy a positive start to school. Some simple tips include:

- be ready to support your child
- listen to your child's thoughts about starting school
- make time to talk, read, play and relax with your child
- share your positive feelings about school
- practise new routines
- encourage your child to keep trying when something is hard
- assist your child to know how to get help
- meet new children and families before the first day
- celebrate starting school.

Your child may raise questions or wish to share their thoughts about what school might be like. Talking with them about these feelings is a good way to help them, and you, prepare for a positive transition to school.

Your child's language skills develop through the everyday conversations you have with them. At school we build on this language and the children's thinking skills by listening, watching and being responsive in our teaching.

For more information visit:

Transition to school

www.qld.gov.au/transitiontoschool

Age-appropriate pedagogies in Prep

www.det.qld.gov.au/ageappropriatepedagogies



Tips for families

Here are some tips from families in our school community to new Prep families about what worked for them to support a positive start to school.

“Start using a lunch box with your child before school starts. See what products they can open without help and show them how to open and close containers. Also check that they can zip and unzip a full lunch box. “

(Jade)

Make sure your child can recognise their own belongings. Write their names where it can be easily seen. Check that they can identify their name on their belongings. This will help encourage independence.”

(Anne)

“Don’t pack too much in their lunch boxes. They will not go hungry at school and choosing what to eat can sometimes take too long to decide.”

(Jackie)

“I didn’t realise how much I did for my child before they came to school. Things like blowing their nose and doing up their shoes are important for them to learn to do on their own. Help them to be more independent.”

(Tracey)

“Reassure your child that school will be new and fun and different. Talk to them about other times in their life when they felt the same way. Let them know that they will not feel unsure for long. Soon it will be fun and familiar.”

(Nicole)



What do I do if I get hurt at school?

If I get hurt
I go to the
office and
they fix
me - Texas.



I tell my friends that I got hurt, Elijah



What if I forgot my lunch?



Where do you play at school?



We play in the park and fairy garden.
Isabelle



Do you have a sleep at school?



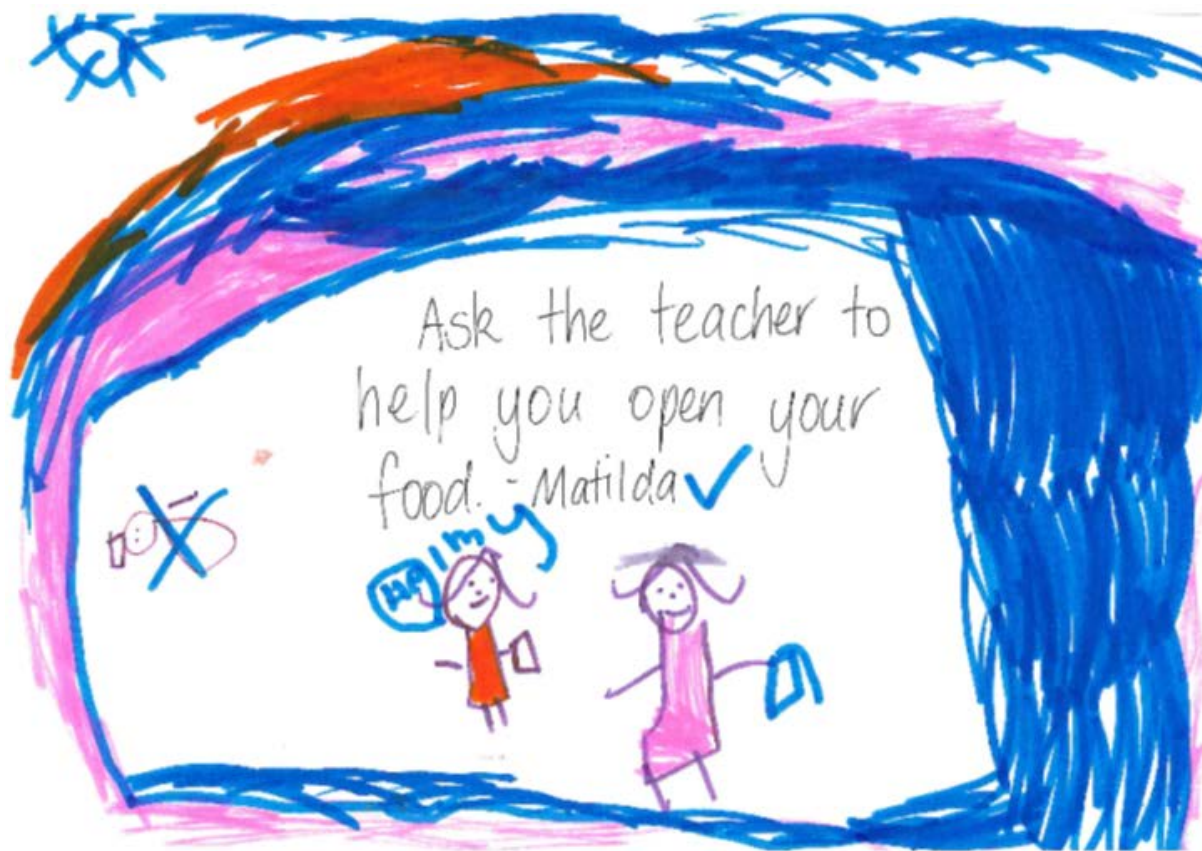
Do I have to wear a uniform at school?



At school all the kids wear a uniform. (Jordyn)



Who can help me at school?



the office ladies have IPUS. Digby

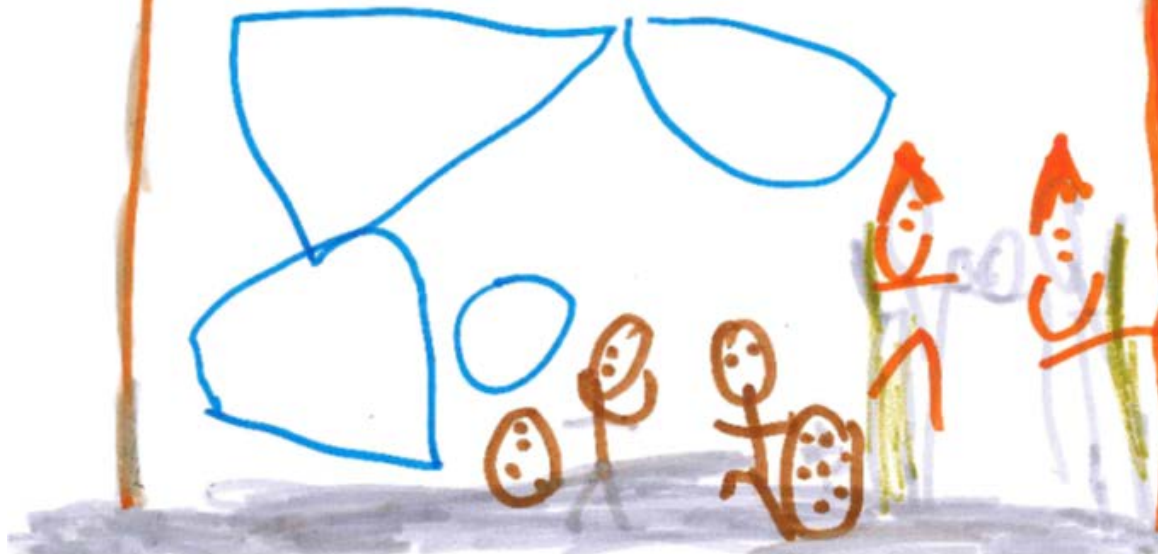


Where do we eat our lunch?

We eat our
munch and
crunch at our
classroom - Phoebe



All the little kids eat in the under
covered area - Aidan.



Wondering about school:

What can we do together?

Families play a big role in supporting the transition to school. Here are some simple tips for supporting your child over the holidays.



Have you got your transition chatterbox?
Ask your school about this free resource on enrolment.

Our thanks

Thank you to all the Prep children at

Mount Samson State School

for their hard work writing, illustrating and publishing this booklet.

We would also like to acknowledge

Cross Country Kids

for their contributions to this project.



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www.qld.gov.au/transitiontoschool



Queensland
Government