



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

Parents advised to start preparing children for Kindergarten now

Parents of children starting Kindergarten next year have been encouraged to begin preparing them now for their all-important first year in school.

Department of Education and Training Early Childhood Executive Director David Ansell said parents can do simple and inexpensive activities at home that could help their child's learning and development.

"Early education can improve a child's confidence and is important to their future success in the classroom, so that is why it is important for children to be as prepared as possible for Kindergarten," Mr. Ansell said.

Parents can help children get excited about going to Kindergarten by reading books to them about starting school. Books recommended by the Department's reading specialists include:

- *Billy and the big new school* by Catherine and Laurence Anhold (Orchard Books);
- *Buzzy had a little lamb* by Harriet Ziefert and Emily Bolam (Blue Apple Books);
- *Fiona the pig's big day* by Leigh Hobbs (Penguin/Viking);
- *First day* by Margaret Wild and Kim Gamble (Allen & Unwin); and
- *I am too absolutely small for school* by Lauren Child (Orchard Books).

Mr Ansell said Kindergarten was an extremely important stage in children's learning as it built on their early learning at home and set the foundation for their attitude towards school.

"Starting Kindergarten can be daunting for some children but there are some simple things parents can do even now to help get their little ones ready for school," Mr Ansell said.

"One tip is simply to walk or drive past the school and talk in a positive manner about school and the friends they will make.

"One of the best things parents can do is to read books together about starting school, because children love to be read to and enjoy exploring the world of school through characters in books."

Parents are also encouraged to speak with staff at school if they have any questions about their child's education.

More information and book titles are available at det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou.

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