

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WHY GOING TO SCHOOL MATTERS IN KINDERGARTEN



Why is it important for my child to attend school every day?

Research shows that to develop the habit of regularly going to school, a routine starts in the first years of school.

By regularly going to school, your child and your family gets to know the teacher, other children and families. The more you are involved in your child's learning the more we can work together to support your child and make sure they get the best start to school.

Attending regularly helps your child develop a sense of belonging and connection to school.

Does my child have to go to Kindergarten?

Enrolment in Kindergarten in Western Australia is not compulsory, but if your child is enrolled, attending is compulsory. Regular attendance helps your child to feel comfortable in their surroundings, develop friendships with other children, and relationships with school staff.

The early years of school gives your child new experiences and sets the foundation for all their future learning. At Kindergarten, your child is supported to develop and learn new ideas and skills in a setting of acceptance, and one that inspires and challenges them. Going to school every session allows your child to build on what they know and what they have learnt.

The skills learnt in Kindergarten set the foundation for Pre-primary, which is the first compulsory year of schooling in Western Australia. In Kindergarten your child will build important social and emotional skills that help them throughout their school life. They also develop literacy and numeracy skills.



For more information please contact:

Marilyn Kelly – 9405 4007 or marilyn.kelly@education.wa.edu.au



Did you know?

- The attendance habits set by children when they first start school continue throughout their school life.
- Learning is cumulative – if your child regularly misses school, it is harder for them to catch up.



**Missing half a day of school each week =
Missing one month of learning opportunities
a year.**

**Missing a day of school each week
between Kindergarten and Year 12 =
Missing nearly two and a half years of school.**

What can you do to help your child?

Developing the habit of going to school regularly from Kindergarten is vital so your child does not miss out on important ideas and skills they need for future learning.

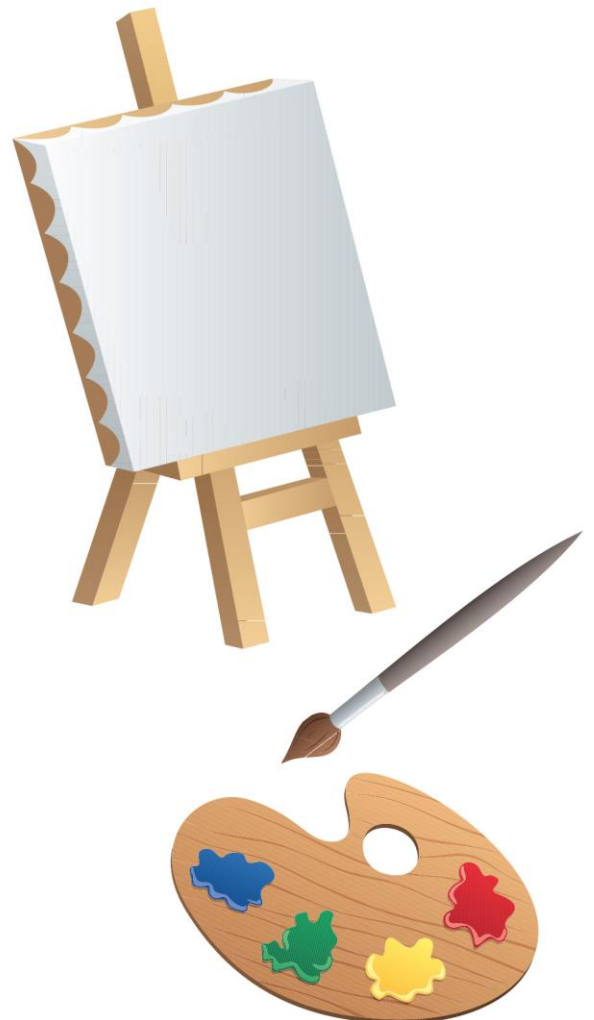
You can help by:

- talking positively about school so your child is happy to go each day
- having set start and finish times for breakfast
- having a set time and routine for going to, and getting out of, bed and getting enough sleep each night
- encouraging your child to have their school uniform and school bag ready the night before
- spending some time each day together reading for enjoyment and talking about what happened in their day.

What if my child doesn't want to go to school?

Talk with the teacher or someone from the school as soon as possible so you can get advice and support.

You may also attend a Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) for additional support and advice about parenting, including setting boundaries and routines.



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