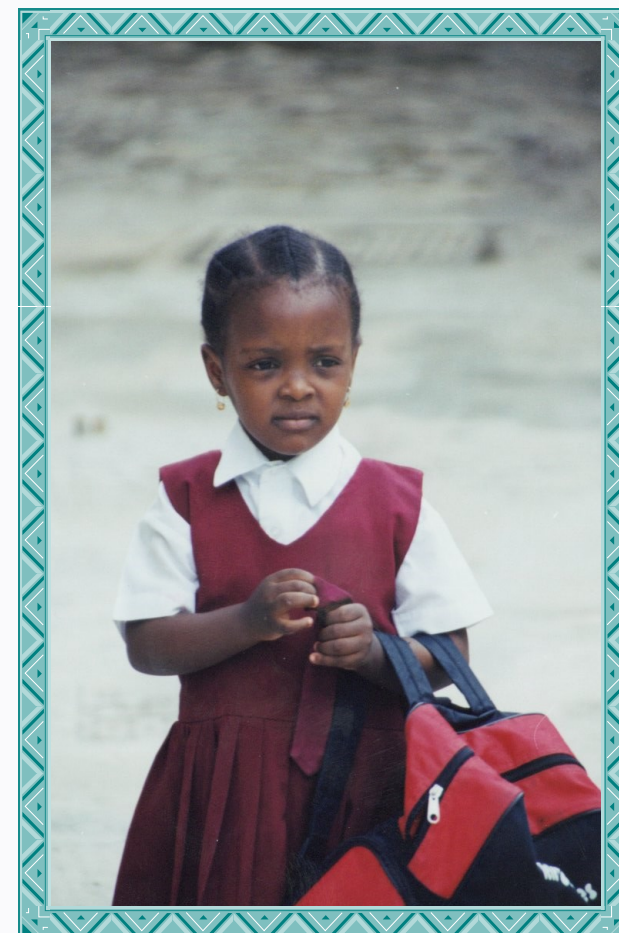


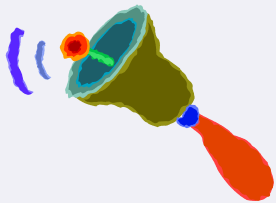


# Countdown to School Calendar

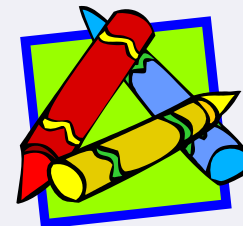


Supporting parents to help their children have a successful start to school

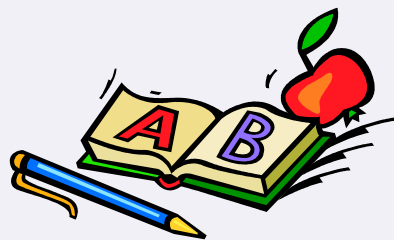




# Time to enrol in school



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



## 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!

# July 2015

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



School Holidays



Education Week





# Learning through play

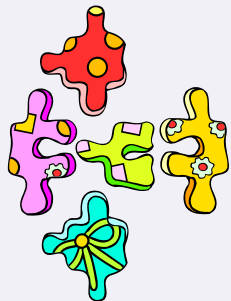
Play simple card games like 'Snap', 'Memory' or 'Go Fish'. Children are using hand and finger muscles to hold the cards, as well as taking turns and matching.

Pretend play develops many skills that will help children at school. Skills to help with friendships, communicating 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.

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

Understanding School Talk??  
DEC  
NSW Department of Education & Communities







## Things to do...

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

# August 2015

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31					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

# 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 sessions times

# September 2015

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				



School Holidays

# Writing and drawing

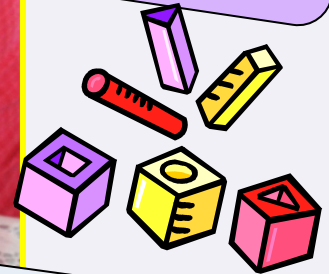
Offer different writing and drawing tools. Try writing or drawing with chalk on a path, sticks in the sand or painting with water outside.



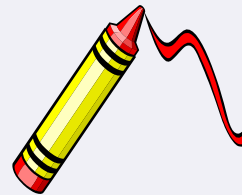
Write your child's name. Talk about the letters in their name.



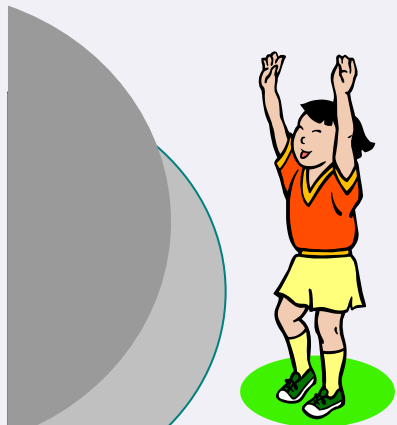
Playing with dough, pegs, Lego and other building blocks will help to build the muscles in your child's hands. This will help with writing activities at school.



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







### Things to do...

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

# October 2015

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5 Labour day Public Holiday	6 School Returns	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	



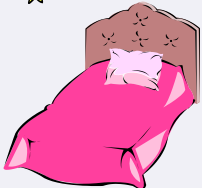
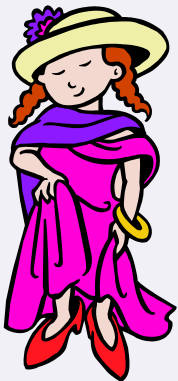
School Holidays

# Encourage Independence

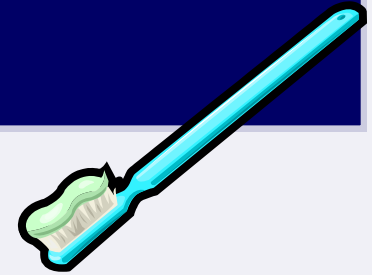


Give your child little jobs to do at home such as make their bed, put their clothes away or set the table. Praise them when they complete the task.

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





### 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.

# November 2015

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.





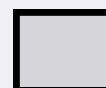


### Things to do...

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

# December 2015

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	17 School Development Day	18 School Development Day	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas day Public Holiday	26 Boxing day Public Holiday	27
28 Boxing day additional Public holiday	29	30	31			



School Holidays

# Rehearsing for School

**Can your child use a public toilet?**

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.



Talk about the times and structures of the school day.  
You would be going into school now.  
This would be lunch time.  
It would be time to come home now.



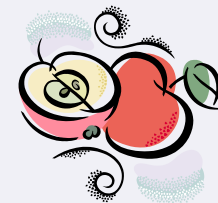
**Understanding School Talk??**  
ESL  
English as a Second Language



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



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



**Remember: Be positive when you talk about school.**





## Things to do...

- Check starting dates for my child's school.
- Have camera ready for first day & make sure the battery is charged



# January 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 New Years day Public Holiday	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 Australia Day Public holiday	27 School Development Day	28 School Returns	29	30	31



School Holidays

# Ensuring a happy 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?"

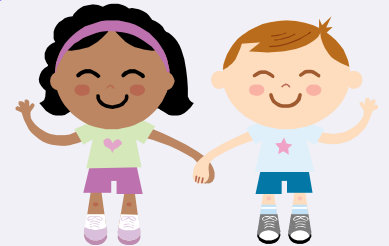
If you have any concerns about your child, make an appointment to talk to the teacher!



Plan a play date with some friends from school. Invite them to come and play at your house.

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 2016



## 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
29						

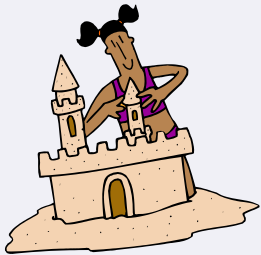


# Learning is fun!

"Play is the work of  
Childhood!"  
Piaget



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



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

"Play provides opportunities for  
children to learn as they  
discover, create, improvise and  
imagine." EYLF

Understanding School Talk??  
ICT  
Information and Communication Technology





## 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 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 Good Friday Public holiday	26 Easter Saturday	27 Easter Sunday Public holiday
28 Easter Monday Public holiday	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.

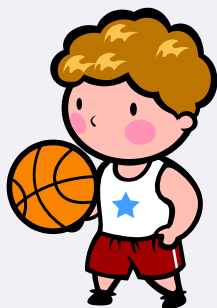


Even though your child is at school, play is still a very important way for them to learn and develop. Provide lots of opportunities for them to just PLAY!



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 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
<b>25</b> Anzac Day Public holiday	<b>26</b> School Development Day	<b>27</b> School Returns	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	



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.



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



Show your child you enjoy reading too!



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?"



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



### 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....

# May 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					



# Helping your child with numeracy



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



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.



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



**Grouping and matching  
are foundational  
number skills.**



**Understanding School Talk??**  
**OOSH**

**Out of School Hours Care**  
**Centres which look after children before/after school**



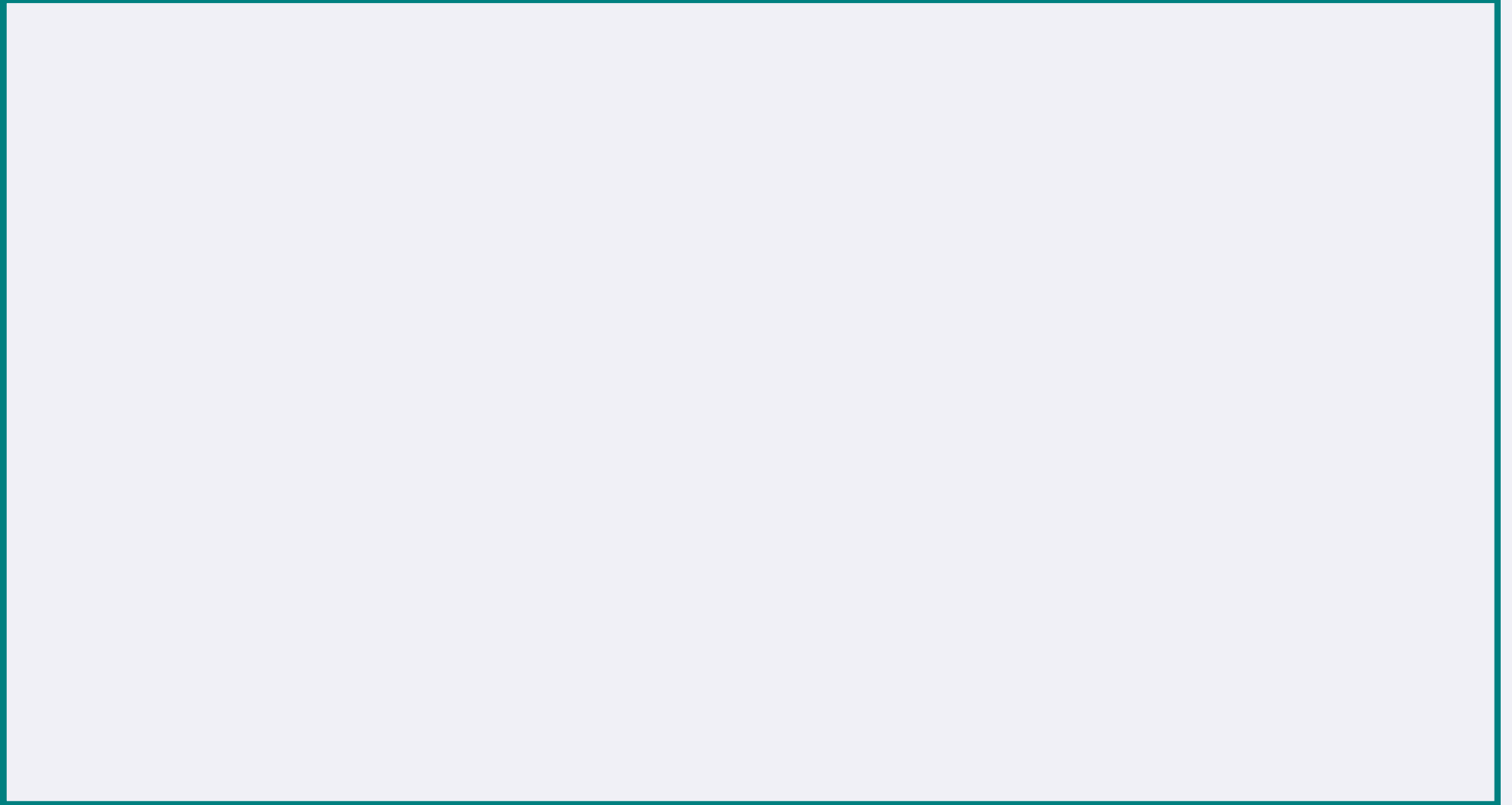
### Things to do...

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

# June 2016

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

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

A large, empty rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for a child to draw a picture of what they are looking forward to when they start school.



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

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for a child to draw a picture of their first day at school. The box occupies the majority of the page below the instruction text.

## 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

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

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

Visit [www.earlywords.info](http://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](http://www.transitiontoschool.net)**



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

