



Treendale

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Kindergarten

“A Children’s Garden”

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Welcome to Treendale Primary School!

It is with immense pride and confidence that I welcome you to our amazing school community! Treendale Primary School is a place of endless possibility, where we are committed to providing the best educational experience for every student in our care.

Our vision is clear: to inspire and create excellence in every child and in ourselves. Our vibrant and enthusiastic staff cultivate dynamic learning environments that are rooted in high-quality teaching, collaboration, and innovative programs. We don't just teach; we empower each student to reach their full potential and become the resilient learners of the future.

We believe that learning is a journey of discovery. Our 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) iPad program from Year 1 – 6 ensures that technology is not just a tool, but a gateway to diverse learning pathways and a vital skill for tomorrow's world.

Our approach is fundamentally founded on our Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) values: Grow Resilience, Excellence, Mutual Respect, and Safety. These values create a positive and safe culture where every child can truly thrive.

Treendale Primary School is proud to be a hub of the community. We celebrate the unique cultures and backgrounds that each child brings to our school, recognizing that diversity is our greatest strength. We see parents and caregivers as vital partners and sincerely encourage your active involvement in every aspect of your child's learning journey.

Whether you're a longstanding TPS family or new to school life, this brochure, alongside our comprehensive school handbook, is designed to help your child grow resilience and settle smoothly into Kindergarten, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual respect from day one. It also provides essential information for families to participate fully in our vibrant school community.

Mrs Jayde Hewson
Principal



Starting Kindergarten

Our Early Childhood Philosophy

At Treendale Primary School, our early childhood education program is built on a foundation of excellence. We thoughtfully balance explicit teaching with intentional play-based learning to ignite curiosity, build confidence, and spark creativity in every child. We deeply value our partnerships with families and the wider community, working together to nurture and develop happy, successful children who are ready to learn and grow.

In Kindergarten, children engage in rich learning experiences through play, discovery, exploration, building, painting, and imagining. They develop crucial early Literacy, Numeracy, and social skills within a **safe, friendly, and exciting environment**.



Kindergarten at Treendale: Our Structure

Children enrolled in Kindergarten at Treendale Primary School attend a 5-day fortnight: two days one week and three days the next, for the entire school year. This structured approach allows for a gradual transition into full-time schooling, preparing them for Pre-Primary with confidence and excellence.

Preparing for Kindergarten: Tips for a Smooth Start

Starting Kindergarten is a big adventure – exciting for children, and sometimes a little daunting for parents! A positive first experience is key to shaping their future attitude towards school. Here are some tips to help ease the transition:

- **Read Together:** Share stories about starting school to build excitement and familiarity.
- **Explore the School:** Drive or walk past the school, chatting about all the fun things they'll do and the new friends they'll make.
- **Shop Smart:** Involve your child in choosing their lunchbox, drink bottle, and school bag.
- **Label Everything (Together!):** Clearly label all belongings. This also helps your child recognize their name.
- **Practice Independence:** Encourage your child to practice identifying their bag, opening/closing their lunchbox, using their water bottle, and putting shoes on/off independently. This helps them **Grow Resilience** and **Act Responsibly**.
- **Morning Prep:** On the first day, prepare their uniform, school bag, and lunch together.

Once school starts, we encourage you to be actively involved! Your ongoing support helps your child build strong foundations for success. If you're unsure how to contribute, please speak with your child's teacher – we value your partnership.



Our Daily Routines

Start of the Day Routine

- **Classroom doors open at 8:40 am.** Children should not arrive at school before 8:20 am.
- **Parent Supervision:** While waiting for classroom doors to open, we kindly ask that parents supervise their children at all times. Please ensure children (including younger siblings) do not play on play equipment before school, as teachers are busy preparing for the day.
- **Morning Welcome:** Families and children are welcome in the classroom from 8:40 am until approximately 8:50 am. We encourage you to participate actively by staying and engaging in an activity with your child. When the bell sounds, we ask that you leave to allow the school day to begin.
- **Easing Separation:** We understand that separating can be a big step. A consistent morning routine helps young children grow resilience and feel secure. Please trust that we will care for any uncertain or upset children. If your child doesn't settle within a reasonable time, we will contact you. We recognise that every child develops independence at their own pace – please talk to us if you have concerns.

End of the Day Routine

- **Kindergarten finishes at 3:00 pm.** Please be prompt when picking up your child, as delays can cause worry.
- **Authorised Pick-up:** If someone else will be collecting your child, please inform the office or classroom teacher via note, phone, or Seesaw. **For your child's Safety, we cannot release them to unauthorised individuals.** It's helpful if new adults collecting your child introduce themselves to staff.
- **Sibling Pick-up:** Only siblings in Year 4 or above may pick up their Kindergarten brother or sister, with prior parent consent.
- Any **changes to pickup arrangements during the school day** must go through the front office and will be delivered to the teacher, not through Seesaw/email etc.

Kindy Classroom Schedule



8:40

Doors open

- Settle in & do quick activity.
- Kiss & wave to minimise upset

9:00

Mat Meeting

- Talk about the day and morning songs.
- Crunch and sip to get our brains ready to learn!

9:40

Literacy

- Music and movement with our whole bodies
- Crafting
- Independent activities we choose
- One-on-one teacher activities



11:03

Recess

- Eating outside with our friends
- Choosing what we want to do - dress ups, relaxing in the quiet zone, riding trikes, etc.

11:51

Maths

- Music and movement with our whole bodies
- Crafting
- Independent activities we choose
- One-on-one teacher activities



1:21

Lunch

- Eating outside with our friends
- Choosing what we want to do - dress ups, relaxing in the quiet zone, riding trikes, etc.

1:51

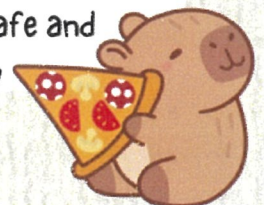
Mindfulness

- Relaxation and yoga
- Calm activities we can choose

3:00

Home time!

- Packed and ready on the mat
- Waiting for our names to be called one by one so we are safe and collected by our family



Attendance and Wellbeing

Absences from Kindergarten

- **Regular attendance** helps children grow resilience, develop familiarity with routines, and build strong relationships with staff and peers. This fosters a sense of belonging and helps them feel comfortable and happy at school.
- **Please keep unwell children at home.**
- **Reporting Absences:** On days your child will be absent, please call the office on 9797 5100 or email Treendale.ps@education.wa.edu.au.
- **Late Arrivals:** If your child arrives after 9:00 am, please sign them in at the front office and collect a late slip for the classroom teacher.
- **Early Collection:** If you need to collect your child early, please sign them out through the front office.

Medication

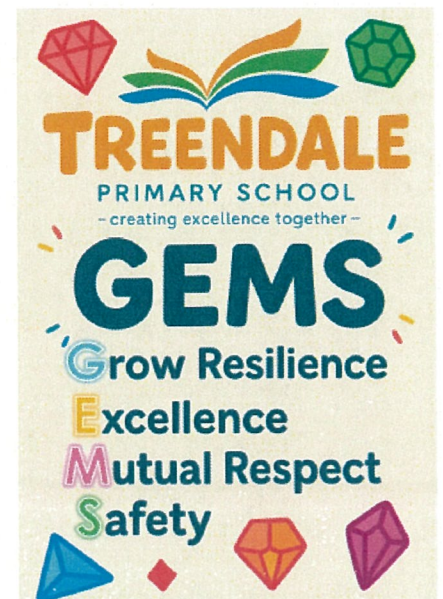
All Medication must be handed to a classroom teacher or the front office to ensure adequate documentation and administration.

Positive Behaviour Support: GEMS in Action

In Kindergarten, our teachers actively model, encourage, and explicitly teach positive behaviours and social skills, fully aligning with our school's **GEMS (Grow Resilience, Excellence, Mutual Respect, Safety)** approach.

When children engage in inappropriate behaviours, we use a **restorative approach**. This includes gently reminding children of expectations, restoring relationships, and explicitly re-teaching positive behaviours and skills. Teachers will inform parents if a child's behaviour becomes a concern.

Partnership in Care: We understand that changes outside of school (e.g., new baby, illness, unsettled sleep) can impact behaviour. Please let us know of any such changes so we can best support your child. If you are concerned about your child's behaviour at home, please talk with their teacher.



School Exclusion Periods

If your child has an infectious condition, you may need to keep them home from day care or school to stop it from spreading. Here's a list of common childhood illnesses and their recommended exclusion periods.



Chickenpox

Until all blisters have dried (usually 5 days).



Conjunctivitis

Until discharge (pus) from the eyes has stopped.



COVID-19

If positive COVID-19 test, they should stay home until acute symptoms go.



Diarrhoea

1 day after the last loose bowel motion (if no cause is identified).



Gastroenteritis

1 day after the last loose bowel motion (if no cause is identified).



Hand, foot and mouth disease

Until all blisters have dried.



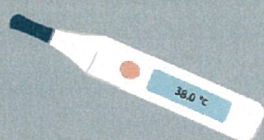
Head lice

No exclusion period (as long as effective treatment has started).



Impetigo

Until 48 hours after treatment or once sores have dried and healed.



Influenza (flu)

Until well.



Measles

At least 4 days after the first rash.



Mumps

9 days or until the swelling goes down.



RSV

Until acute symptoms go, and they feel well.



Rubella

At least 4 days after the first rash or until they have recovered fully.



Scabies

1 day after appropriate treatment has started.



Whooping cough

5 days after antibiotics started, or 21 days from the first cough.



No exclusion period:

- Colds
- Threadworms

Healthy Habits and Mealtimes

Crunch and Sip

Children in Kindergarten have a 'snack' break in the morning. Crunch and Sip is a vital part of teaching young children about excellence in healthy eating and hydration.

Please provide **cut-up fruit or vegetables** in a separate container. This helps children access their snack quickly and independently, promoting safety and self-care.

Recess

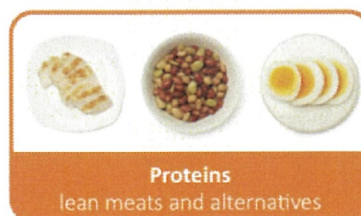
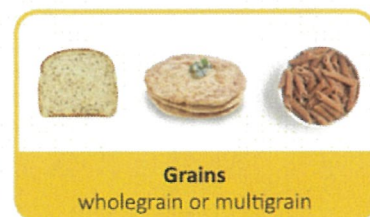
Each child brings their own individual recess – we do not share. Please provide some fruit, vegetables, or other healthy alternatives (e.g., popcorn, crackers, cheese, dried fruit) in a separate container from their lunchbox. This helps children find their recess quickly. Ensure fruit/vegetables are cut up if needed.

Lunch

Lunch is an important part of the Kindergarten day, where appropriate healthy eating habits and mutual respect (e.g., manners) are promoted and encouraged. We ask that you pack a healthy lunch for your child each day they attend Kindergarten.

Packing a healthy lunchbox

The school lunchbox should contain around one-third of a child's food for the day. Packing a wide variety of fresh and healthy foods from the five food groups below provides the best opportunity for kids to grow and thrive.



Supported by
healthway

Cancer
Council
WA

Learn more at crunchandsip.com.au

Crunch&Sip®

Eating at Kindergarten

Young children can get very hungry! Your child will have many opportunities to eat: Crunch and Sip, morning tea (recess), and lunch. We know appetites change with growth spurts, so please talk with your child's teacher if you have concerns about their eating habits at Kindergarten.

Allergies & Special Diets: It is crucial that we are informed of any allergies or special diets (e.g., nut allergies, gluten intolerance) to ensure the safety of all children. **Remember, our school is a 'nut aware' site.**

Canteen

The school canteen, run by 'The Spotty Apron', is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for recess and lunch orders.

Online ordering is available via the 'My School Connect' App.

The Spotty Apron Canteen at Treendale Primary School

CRUNCH AND SIP		RECESS & LUNCH ITEMS		LUNCH ITEMS	
delivered to your child's classroom in the morning		available for recess and lunch orders		available for lunch orders	
● SEASONAL FRUIT*	\$1-1.50	FRUIT AND VEG		SANDWICHES	
● APPLE SLINKY*	\$1.50	● SEASONAL FRUIT*	\$1.00-1.50	● cheese*	\$2.50
● FRUIT CUP*	\$2.50	apple, apple slinky, banana, kiwi fruit, mandarin, pear, sultanas		● vegemite*	\$2.50
● FRUIT BOWL*	\$5.00	● FRUIT CUP*	\$2.50	● ham and cheese* (Mon & Fri only)	\$4.00
● CARROT / VEG STICKS (NO DIP)*	\$1.50	apple, orange, pineapple, rockmelon, watermelon or mixed		● chicken and cheese*	\$5.00
● WATER 250ML*	\$1.00	● FRUIT BOWL*	\$5.00	TOASTIES	
● WATER 600ML*	\$1.50	● VEG STICKS*	\$1.50	● cheese*	\$2.50
		carrot, cucumber, celery, or mixed		● ham and cheese* (Mon & Fri only)	\$4.00
		● VEG STICKS FRENCH ONION DIP*	\$2.00	● chicken and cheese*	\$5.00
		● CORN COB	\$1.50	WRAPS AND BUNS	
				● salad only*	\$4.50
				● ham and salad* (Mon & Fri only)	\$5.00
				● chicken and salad*	\$6.00
				● add cheese*	\$0.50
				white, wholemeal or gluten free breads, buns and wraps available	
				SALADS	
				● GARDEN SALAD*	\$4.50
				● CHICKEN SALAD*	\$6.00
				HOT FOOD	
				● PIE - BEEF OR CHICKEN & VEG	\$4.50
				● SAUSAGE ROLL	\$4.50
				● MINI SAUSAGE ROLLS (3)	\$5.00
				● MINI SAUSAGE ROLL (1)	\$2.00
				● MINI PIES (3)	\$5.00
				● MINI PIE (1)	\$2.00
				● CHICKEN NUGGETS (3)	\$4.20
				● CROISSANT	\$3.50-\$5.50
				cheese, ham & cheese, chicken & cheese	
				● CHICKEN TENDER	\$2.00
				● SAUCE - DIPPING OR PACKET*	\$0.50
				BBQ, mayo, sweet chilli tomato	
				LUNCH SPECIALS	
				● MON - PUMPKIN SOUP - CUP	\$3.50
				● MON - PUMPKIN SOUP - BOWL	\$5.50
				● TUE - MINI PIZZA	\$5.00
				● WED - HOT CHICKEN MAYO ROLL	\$5.50
				● FRI - MAC AND CHEESE - CUP	\$3.50
				● FRI - MAC AND CHEESE - BOWL	\$5.50

DRINKS		COLD SNACKS	
available for recess and lunch orders			
● WATER 250ML*	\$1.00	● YOGHURT*	\$1.70
● WATER 600ML*	\$1.50	mango, strawberry or vanilla	
● JUICE BOX*	\$2.50	● BROWNIES YOGO - CHOC*	\$1.70
● FLAVOURED MILK*	\$3.00	● CUSTARD - VANILLA	\$1.70
apple, orange, raspberry apple, tropical			
● BANANA, CHOCOLATE, SPEARMINT, STRAWBERRY, VANILLA			
● WARM MILO	\$2.50		

FROZEN SNACKS		SAVOURY SNACKS	
● QUELCH BARS*	\$1.00	● CHEESE AND CRACKERS*	\$1.20
● FROYO POPS*	\$2.00	● CORN FRITTER	\$1.70
mango, strawberry, vanilla or choc		● PIKELET*	\$0.50
● ICE CREAM CUP - VANILLA	\$2.00	● POPCORN CUP	\$1.00
● SORBET - MANGO	\$2.00	● POPCORN BOWL	\$2.00
		● TRAIL MIX CUP	\$1.50
		● TRAIL MIX BOWL	\$2.50
		● RICE THIN	\$0.50
		● VEGETABLE SLICE	\$2.50

SWEET SNACKS	
● ANZAC BISCUIT	\$1.50
● APPLE CRUMBLE SLICE	\$2.50
● BANANA BREAD	\$1.70
● CHOC BROWNIE	\$1.60
● CHOC CRACKLE COOKIES	\$1.75
● MUFFINS*	\$2.50

blueberry, choc, vanilla, gf options

CANTEEN INFORMATION	
● green - everyday options ● amber - occasionally	
* - Gluten Free Option available	
Check out our 'Pop Up Specials' category for occasional pop up items.	
Open for crunch and sip, recess and lunch orders on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.	
Class Birthday treats can be delivered to child's classroom any afternoon. 3 days minimum notice.	
Online ordering through "My School Connect" app. Orders to be placed by 8am the morning of.	
Special Menus and to be placed by 8am the morning before.	
Canteen Contact: Danni Guadagnino mobile: 0472792920 email: thespottyapron@gmail.com	
Follow The Spotty Apron Facebook Page for the latest updates, specials and important info.	
Download the My School Connect app to place orders.	


Example 2025 Spotty Apron Canteen Menu

Personal Care and Uniform


Toileting

Most children are fully toilet trained by Kindergarten. If this isn't the case for your child, please inform their teacher. We can work together to develop a plan to help them achieve this important milestone, fostering their excellence and independence.

Accidents Happen: Accidents can occur, so it's important to pack a spare set of clothes each day 'just in case'. Like all belongings, these clothes should be clearly labelled.


TOILETING SKILLS CHECKLIST

	Can do independently	Learning target for home
TOILETING AWARENESS		
Knows when the toilet is needed (bladder and bowel)		
Knows where the toilet is (at home or school)		
Can indicate when the toilet is needed (verbal/gesture)		
Can understand and follow simple instructions		
ACCESSING THE TOILET (Without Support)		
Goes to the toilet on their own		
Goes to the toilet when asked		
Shuts the toilet door		
Locks the toilet door (at school)		
Pulls pants and underwear down		
Knows how to use a step stool (if needed)		
Can climb up and sit on the toilet		
Urinate in the toilet		
Empties bowels in the toilet		
Wipes themselves using toilet paper		
Can get down off the toilet		
Pulls pants and underwear back up		
Flushes the toilet		
HANDWASHING PROCEDURES		
Remembers without prompting		
Uses soap and water		
Turns the tap on and off independently		
Washes hands properly (appropriate length of time)		
Dries hands with paper towel or drier		
TOILETING ACCIDENTS		
Knows when they have had an accident (wet or soiled)		
Tells an adult after having an accident		
Cleans themselves up with paper/wipes		
Removes wet/soiled clothes (with minimal support)		
Puts on clean clothes (with minimal support)		



Health and Safety Reminders

- **Hair:** All children, regardless of gender, with hair that touches their shoulder are expected to have it tied back for **health and safety** reasons.
- **SunSmart:** All children are required to wear a school navy bucket hat to play in the sun. Treendale Primary School is a SunSmart school with a **“no hat, no play in the sun” policy**, promoting safety and well-being.
- **Labelling:** Please make sure all clothing, hats, and personal items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays! Please feel free to bring cupcakes (or similar) to help celebrate your child's special day. If you choose to bring treats, please ask your child's teacher about any allergies to be considered, ensuring the safety and inclusion of all students.

What to Wear to Kindergarten

Appropriate Footwear: While at school, Kindergarten children run, climb, and play in sand, on grass, and on concrete. Please ensure your child wears appropriate footwear for school. Closed-in sneakers are encouraged, with strapped sandals as an option. Velcro fasteners on shoes help your child grow resilience through independence in taking off and putting on shoes. Thongs, Croc shoes, and similar are not appropriate for safe and active play.

School Uniform: We ask that all Kindergarten children wear school uniform. This helps to develop a sense of pride and belonging in the school, fostering mutual respect for our community, and simplifies daily choices for families. More information on the dress code can be found in the Treendale Primary School Parent Handbook.

New Uniforms can be purchased from 'Uniform Concepts'

Open: Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

4/118 Spencer Street, Bunbury WA 6230, Australia

ph: 9270 4664 or email: bunbury@uc.nellgray.com.au

Our second-hand uniform shop is open on Mondays between 8.30am – 9.00am. Located in the Undercover-area, you can find most items for a gold coin donation

Technology and Communication

Access to Technology in Kindergarten

All children will have the opportunity to interact with a school iPad and other technology during the Kindergarten program. This will happen as part of the learning program and in the context of interactions with teachers and other children, fostering excellence through modern learning tools.

Seesaw App: Your Learning Connection

Seesaw is a whole school learning and communication tool that helps connect parents with their child's learning. At Treendale Primary, it is used as a student/teacher driven digital portfolio which showcases what is happening in each classroom.

In Kindergarten, teachers use Seesaw to display work completed throughout the term, upload photos, communicate with families, and share information with parents. This App can be downloaded onto parent's devices, tablet or phone and gives families an immediate and personalised window into their child's schooling, helping to answer: "What did you do at school?"

You will receive a QR code for your child at the start of the school year. Please keep notification alerts turned on so you can stay up-to-date with what's happening in your child's class, promoting mutual respect through open communication.

School Website

Our school website can be found at: www.treendaleps.wa.edu.au. Here you will find useful information about our policies, events, contact details and access to the school newsletter, which is also sent to parents via Seesaw.

Community and Events

Parent Help

Children love it when they can see their family members being part of their class and their education. There are many ways to be part of the class, and your child's educational journey while at Treendale Primary School, demonstrating mutual respect and partnership.

We welcome family members into our classrooms to help and join in. In Term 1, we allow the children to get used to being away from their parents before beginning a regular Parent Help Roster. Each class differs as to the timing of this commencing. Please talk with your child's teacher if you are interested in being part of this roster. Of course, you can always help on an irregular basis when you are available. Once again, please talk with your child's teacher.

- **Confidentiality & Respect:** Please respect each child's right to privacy and confidentiality. We ask that details of your time on parent help not be disclosed to others. All visitors helping in Kindergarten will be asked to sign a confidentiality form and will be required to fill out an annual induction questionnaire, ensuring mutual respect and safety.
- **Beyond the Classroom:** There are other opportunities beyond the classroom, such as being part of the P & C or School Board. Please talk with your child's teacher if you are interested.

Kindergarten Participation in Whole School Events

Our school has many events throughout the year such as Sports Carnivals and various dress-up days. At times, due to differences in timetables and developmental levels, the Kindergarten children celebrate these events on different days and/or in a different format to the rest of the school. You will be notified by your child's teacher when participation in these events is available to your Kindergarten child.

Classroom Support

Laundry Roster

We ask for parent assistance with the weekly laundry, to make sure we are always able to provide clean tea towels and hand towels in the classroom. Each term a class will be responsible for washing, where a roster will be planned and displayed on the notice board outside the room. When washing is taken home, we ask that it please be returned to the classroom as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and support in maintaining a clean learning environment.

Recycled Items for Learning

We love to use all sorts of materials to support our learning and foster excellence through creativity. Any household items or equipment you no longer use, we may be able to find a use for! Old clothes for dress-ups would be greatly appreciated. We are always looking for wood offcuts, tiles, lino, carpet, fabric, boxes, egg cartons, paper towel rolls, plastic items, cardboard, paper, craft items – the list is endless! If we need specific items, we will let you know. Due to health regulations, we are unable to accept toilet rolls, milk containers, or meat trays. From time to time, we may ask for “no more” as space to store it is at a premium.



Supporting Your Child

Accessing Community Support Services

All children are different and require individual consideration. It is not an admission of failure if you seek support, but rather, a commendable act of excellence in doing what you can to help meet your child's needs.

Below is a list of local support services you can access through self-referral processes:

- Hudson Road Family Centre
- Child Health Nurse
- Your family GP
- Triple P Parenting Program (free online)
- Private supports for speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy

Your child's teacher also regularly monitors and assesses your child's development and learning while at Kindergarten. They may talk with you if they feel a referral to a service such as above may assist your child. Please contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child's development and/or require any additional information. This collaborative approach ensures comprehensive support for your child.



Developing Early Literacy Skills & Understanding

As your child's first teacher, you can help support your child's language and early literacy skills development in many ways, laying a strong foundation for **Excellence**. Here are some tips:

- **Extend Oral Language:** During play, get involved, interact meaningfully, communicate, and have fun with their game or toy to extend their oral language.
- **Integrate Language in Daily Routines:** Add play and language into daily routines such as bath time, dinner, car rides, and shopping. Play 'I Spy', talk about what you are doing and what you can see. Let your child make choices about play with your and their toys.
- **Active Listening:** Ensure you make time to listen and respond to your child's comments. Make comments about things they are looking at or paying attention to.
- **Daily Conversations:** Talk about each other's day, such as what has happened or what something looks like.
- **Acknowledge and Recast:** When speaking, acknowledge what your child has said or recast their sentence correctly. For example: "Baby Cry" – "Yes the baby is crying".
- **Support Speech Development:** Different speech sounds develop at different ages. You can assist by recasting the sound correctly. For example, if your child says "A tato", respond with "A potato, it's a big potato, I think we need another potato". If your child is unable to say a speech sound or you are concerned about your child's speech, speak to your child's teacher.
- **Read Aloud Daily:** Make time to read aloud to your child every day, even for a few minutes. This promotes early literacy behaviours such as page turning, direction of text, and that all words have meaning.
- **Make Reading Fun:** Ensure reading is fun and exciting, e.g., use funny voices and change the volume.
- **Child's Choice & Engagement:** Allow your child to choose the book, let your child hold the book, and turn the pages.
- **Repetition & Rhyme:** When reading books with repetition or rhyme, let them join in or finish the sentences.
- **Picture Talk:** Point to the pictures and ask them what they see or what the pictures may mean.
- **Relate & Retell:** Relate the story to familiar experiences. Ask your child to re-tell the page or part of the story.
- **Sing Songs:** Sing nursery rhymes and other children's songs.
- **Library Visits:** Take your child to the local library and let them choose some books to borrow.
- **Show Importance of Reading:** Show the importance of reading in your daily life by reading aloud recipes, text messages, timetables, and magazines for example. Show them writing is important too!
- **Environmental Print:** Point out and read common words in the daily environment such as STOP!, Toilets. (Adapted from the Peel Language Development School 2018)

Developing Early Numeracy Skills & Understanding

Children develop early understandings in numeracy from using mathematical ideas in everyday situations, building a foundation for **Excellence** in problem-solving. Here are some ways you can encourage this learning at home:

- **Subitising:** Encourage your child to identify 'how many' they see in a collection without counting. This is called subitising. Play dominoes with your child or games that involve rolling a dice. Encourage them to say how many dots without counting, particularly 1-4. Play 'snap' with a packet of cards as this game relies on subitising.
- **Meaningful Counting:** Provide opportunities for your child to count for a meaningful purpose. For example, ask them to "Get enough cups for everyone to have a drink". The child will have to count how many people, then count out that many cups.
- **Counting Larger Collections:** Ask your child to count how many they see in a collection larger than 6. This will help them to learn that the last number said tells how many are in the collection.
- **Number Exposure:** Expose children to numbers to 10 and beyond; at the shops, on speed signs in the environment, etc.
- **Counting in Games:** Play games with your child where they count out spaces, or the number of places they need to move.
- **Comparison:** Provide situations for your child to tell you which collection has more, or which is bigger or smaller. When shopping, ask your child to collect the required number of fruit or veggies. Ask them to tell you which is more, the apples or oranges?
- **Storytelling & Counting:** There are many stories that involve counting collections, or are about numbers. For example, "The Three Little Pigs", "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", "Five Little Ducks", "Ten in a Bed". Allow your child to count the characters. When counting with them, touch the pictures one at a time so that the child can see that each object needs to be touched or counted only once.
- **Dot-to-Dots:** Dot-to-dots can assist young children to learn the number sequence. Make sure that the numbers are clear and the sequence is not too high. 1-10 is high enough for young children.
- **Numbers in the Environment:** Encourage your child to point out where they can see numbers in their home. For example, on the letterbox, the telephone, in magazines and newspapers, etc.
- **Calculator Play:** Use, or play with a calculator is an excellent way for young children to learn to recognise numbers, and also how to count.
- **Money Skills:** EFTPOS facilities are commonplace. However, it is important that children are exposed to money and have the opportunity to handle both coins and notes.
- **Fun with Numbers:** Do not rush your child towards writing numbers, but rather have fun with numbers!

Developing Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills, using smaller muscles (i.e.: hands and fingers), are an important skill for children to have. This supports many aspects of their learning, including writing, and contributes to their excellence in tasks requiring precision. Fine motor skills can be developed at home in many ways:

- **Writing Implements:** Using a variety of writing implements like pencils, crayons, felt-tip markers.
- **Scissors:** Using scissors – do not be scared of them! Teach your child the importance of using them safely.
- **Malleable Materials:** Playing with malleable materials, including playdough, slime, putty, sand.
- **Tools:** Using tongs, tweezers, kids chopsticks.
- **Construction:** Threading beads, sewing fidget toys, Duplo.

Developing Gross Motor Skills

Development of gross motor skills through whole-body movements develops children's strength and control over their large muscle groups such as shoulders and core. This contributes to the development of stability, balance, coordination, and speed, enhancing their resilience and physical safety. Gross motor skills can be developed at home in many ways:

- **Park Visits:** Visit the park regularly and encourage climbing, swinging, and hanging on equipment such as monkey bars.
- **Ball Games:** Throwing, catching, rolling, and kicking a ball of various sizes with your child.
- **Movement Play:** Crawling and jumping as part of games and dancing to music.
- **Walks:** Go for walks with your child.
- **Biking:** Encourage your child to learn to ride a balance bike or how to pedal using a tricycle or bicycle.
- **Chalk Pathway:** Draw a 'Chalk Pathway' together (also known as 'Sidewalk Chalk Obstacle Course', 'Sensory Path'). A quick web search will give you lots of ideas!



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