

1.6 TRANSITION TO SCHOOL STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Starting school is a significant milestone in the life of any child and family. Lindfield Montessori School supports continuity of learning and transitions for each child by sharing relevant information and developing strategies that support a positive transition to formal primary schooling.

PURPOSE

Lindfield Montessori Preschool will share relevant information and work in collaboration with families to support the individual strengths and needs of each child to facilitate a smooth transition to primary school. We will promote continuation of Montessori education in collaboration with other Montessori Primary Schools.

STRATEGIES

Starting school is a major transition for young children. When children know what to expect they are much more likely to feel confident and happy about starting school.

Lindfield Montessori Preschool assists children to develop the following skills considered useful for engaging positively in the primary school environment:

- Concentration
- Persevering when faced with difficulties
- Responding positively to new situations
- Taking some responsibility for their behaviour as it impinges on others in the group
- Developing the communication skills necessary for group or individual play
- Developing positive feelings about themselves and others
- Experiencing a sense of self-satisfaction resulting from achievement.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Educators will:

- Encourage children to start thinking and talking about school by exploring various elements of the school experience (e.g. uniforms, canteen, lunches, library, different writing fonts).
- Talk with children about starting school, respecting any concerns, and communicating these to families.
- Communicate with families to ensure the school is meeting the strengths and needs of the children and families.

- Consider family priorities and any concerns about the transition process.
- Focus on school readiness in all areas throughout the day.
- Discuss children’s development and readiness for school with parents.
- Support each family’s decision about when to begin the first formal year of school, acknowledging that “children must turn five by July 31 in the year they start Kindergarten. All children in NSW must start school by their sixth birthday”.
- Be supported to access professional development opportunities relating to transition to school.
- Facilitate relationships with local schools to support children and families with the transition process and to open lines of communication. The importance of school preparation through school visits and orientation days will be promoted.

Relevant Legislation	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. Reg. 118, 148 Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
Related to NQS QA	6
Related Policies	Interactions with Children Family Participation and Communication
Sources & Further Reading	Community Childcare Cooperative (NSW)

POLICY REVIEWED	MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE
January 2022	Checked regulations, updated copy	2024