

LET'S GO TO SCHOOL



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Yayasan
MENDAKI



LET'S GO TO SCHOOL!



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SELECTING A CHILD CARE CENTRE

STEP 1

LOCATE CHILD CARE CENTRES CONVENIENT FOR YOU

Shortlist child care centres that are most convenient for you.

You can obtain information about existing centres through <http://www.childcarelink.gov.sg> or call 6258 5812.

STEP 3

VISIT THE CHILD CARE CENTRE

Once you have selected the centre that meets your requirement, visit the centre with your child. The overall atmosphere at the centre should be relaxed and conducive to free activity and healthy development.

STEP 2

OBTAIN INFORMATION ON CHILD CARE CENTRES

After you have selected a few possible centres, contact the centres to get more information on:

- Policies, aims and values on children's development, care and education.

Information that you should obtain about the operations of the centre:

- Age range of children
- Operating hours
- Availability of enrolment spaces
- Fee structure/Mode of payment
- Eligibility for government child care subsidy
- Notice period for withdrawal
- Availability of trial period
- Programme/Curriculum approach
- Centre-parent partnership
- Meals and Snacks

Observe the children...

- Are they happy when playing?
- Do they turn to the staff for comfort, help and information? Active guidance from the staff will help children in developing social relationships.
- Do they explore with materials? Children express their personal feelings through play and it develops their desire to learn and experiment.

Observe the staff...

- Do the staff relate with children in a sensitive way? Children need to be treated with respect to gain self-confidence.
- Do the staff respond to what a child has to say? Children need to feel important within the group and they learn from interacting with adults.
- What kind of comments does the staff make about a child's work? The staff should show appreciation for each child's efforts and encourage them to express their feelings.



TRANSITION TO PRESCHOOL

EARLY EDUCATION (0-3 YEARS)

- 1** Attend meetings or playgroups to expose them to the preschool environment.
- 2** Before starting school, take your child to visit the classroom and meet the teacher.
- 3** Familiarise your child with the school environment before term starts.
- 4** Prepare your child ahead by creating a routine before term begins.
- 5** Give your child a transitional object, like a favorite blanket or teddy bear they can carry around with them all day; or even a storybook so the teacher can read it.
- 6** Give your child lots of reassurance that "Mommy's coming back," or "Daddy's coming back."
- 7** Reading books about starting school can help kids get a better sense of what preschool is like.
- 8** If your child starts to cry when you drop him off at preschool, resist the urge to carry him. This won't help; it will only make separating more difficult.

 **Time for School, Mouse!**
by Laura Numeroff
READ ALL ABOUT IT



Tips

- Avoid allowing your child to skip school as this sends the message to him that school is not important
- It is helpful to familiarise with your child the school environment before the term starts
- Prepare your child ahead for pre-school by establishing a routine before term begins

MY CHILD AND PRE-SCHOOL



Tips

- Activities in pre-school are designed to help children with their math and literacy skills
- Pre-school allows for children to learn in a structured environment, giving them good foundation for primary school
- Pre-schools also engage children by allowing them to learn through play
- Children learn how to interact with one another in school. Going to pre-school promotes your child's social and emotional development



Tips

- Children learn in groups in pre-school setting. Teaching your children when he comes back from school will give him the focused attention he needs
- Your child can also learn through everyday routines. For example, your child can learn to count and sort by laying out cutlery on the dining table
- Going through what your child has learnt in school will help you understand his progress.

TRANSITION TO PRIMARY 1

1 Instil love for learning in your child, through exploring nature, reading and sharing his thoughts with ease and confidence.

2 Set realistic expectations and achievable goals for him. For example, what are the classroom etiquettes he should develop?

3 Attend your child's Primary 1 Orientation, and talk to him about the routines like recess time.

4 Attend relevant MOE seminars, where your queries can be addressed.

5 Tick off the Primary School Readiness Checklist (next page)



PRIMARY SCHOOL READINESS CHECKLIST

The simple checklist below contains some knowledge and skills that will help your child in Primary school. Put a tick next to each item that your child is able to do.

LANGUAGE

My child is able to:

- recite the alphabets from A to Z
- tell the difference between capital and small letters from A to Z and write the alphabets in capital and small letters
- tell when words begin with the same sound e.g. the "b" sound in "book" and "bag"
- put together sounds to make a word e.g. "u" and "p" together make the word "up"
- identify some common words e.g. "a", "the", "I", and "you" when he sees them
- write his first and last name, and the first names of some friends and family.
- tell the days of the week in order (Monday to Sunday)
- write some letters and words as they are sold to him, and begins to spell some words correctly
- use words such as the names for colours, shapes, and numbers
- hold a book and follow the words from left to right and from top to bottom of a page when he is read to

MATHEMATICS

My child is able to:

- recognise numbers 1 to 20
- write numbers 1 to 20
- count from 1 to 20
- arrange numbers from 1 to 20 in the correct order
- recognise different shapes e.g. square, triangle, circle
- compare sizes (bigger and smaller) and length (longer and shorter)
- understand what "more than" and "less than" mean
- match a number to the number of objects he sees e.g. match the number 5 to a picture of 5 ducks
- do simple addition e.g. $5 + 4 = 9$
- do sample subtraction e.g. $8 - 6 = 2$

SOCIAL SKILLS

My child is able to:

- play cooperatively (share and take turns)
- respect other people's property
- respect other people's feelings
- listen without interrupting
- work on his own, without much help from others.
- work and talk to adults comfortably
- follow instructions
- follow rules
- finish one activity before starting another

Notes



Children who watch more than three hours of television and videos in a day have a higher chance of behavioural, emotional and relationship problems, by the time they are aged 7 than children who do not.

Notes



Children who spend more time outdoors are less likely to become myopic - two hours per day of outdoor activity reduces the risk of myopia compared with less than one hour per day.

References

Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), "Choosing a Childcare Centre for Your Child", retrieved from: https://www.ecda.gov.sg/Documents/CCLS/ECDA-Choosing_110310_FA.pdf. "Information is accurate as of date".

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Ministry of Education (MOE) and Self-Help Groups (SHG), *My Primary Companion*

