



**Toongabbie Primary School**  
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## Helping Your Child's Learning

Children learn through their families and the everyday experiences you have with them.

If your child attended an early year's service such as kindergarten or child care before starting school, their educator will have communicated with their Prep teacher about your child's interests, skills and abilities by completing a Transition Learning and Development Statement. With this knowledge, your child's teacher will have been able to consider your child's learning profile and to build on your child's strengths, abilities and interests. So, no matter whether your child was able to write their names before they started school, their Prep class is designed to make learning fun and challenging.

As your child's first, and most important, teacher there is a lot you can do at home that will support your child's learning through everyday experiences. Here are some tips on things you can try at home:

- Have problems they can help solve, like a jigsaw puzzle or helping you sort the laundry (especially the socks!). These are great ways to tap into their natural problem solving abilities.
- Do things that interest them – like an existing hobby or activity they love. For example, if your child likes helping you cook you can introduce maths by getting them to measure the ingredients; science by observing and discussing how the different ingredients mix together; English through reading the recipe steps out loud; health by discussing how healthy the different ingredients are; and safety by allowing them to chop ingredients (with your help of course). All that learning can be achieved while you cook together.
- Enjoying spontaneous activities in response to your child's questions can go a long way to encouraging their curiosity.
- Help them find answers or solutions to problems themselves. Show your child how to look things up in a book, in an encyclopedia or on the computer, and let them find the answers themselves.
- When talking to your child, ask reflective questions like 'how' 'why' or 'what if...!' as this helps them to think deeply about their responses.
- Repeat things. Most of us can't do something perfectly the first time we try them. We get better with practice, and understand what we're doing the more we do it. Children are exactly the same.

- Remember, your child needs some downtime just like you do. Giving them time to just be themselves is as important as giving them good food and lots of love.

Discuss with your child's teacher any concerns that you have about your child's learning and how it can be supported. If there are concerns, discussing this together with your child's teacher will help.

