

# 5 ways to support school readiness

School readiness is much more than 3 months of targeted learning around colours, shapes, numbers and letters before children head off to school. Here are some ways to support it:



## Look up your state/territory's guidelines

Each state and territory has their own government produced online guides for what school readiness entails and you might be surprised by what the focus is in a lot of the recommendations that create opportunities for dispositions for learning over hard skills.



## Talk to your local schools

Your children will likely transition to your local schools, so spending time getting to know them and their expectations can help you to cater your school readiness program for your context. Their information should guide your approach, not dictate it.



## Recognise school readiness starts at birth

School readiness is everything that happens before a child goes to school and many of these skills start developing at birth when neural pathways are formed. This way of looking at it can help change the way you prioritise the learning of any one age group as more important within the service.



## Identify where it exists in your curriculum

A lot of what you are doing on a daily basis will already provide, or have the potential to provide school readiness learning. Recognise these play-based and meaningful ways, over adding structured adult directed learning to the program, to increase learning outcomes.



## Change the way you communicate learning

A lot of the pressure around a formal school readiness approach comes from families who are unable to see how the play-based program supports learning. This comes down to the way we communicate it to them, so avoid hiding it behind outcome codes and make it more transparent to the families.