Parent Information Sheet

At Greenlands State School, our purpose is to provide the best educational outcomes for every student in our school. We have provided this information sheet to help parents understand our policies and processes that we use to ensure we keep our high standards.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Address: Greenlands State School
1209 Texas Road
Stanthorpe, Q. 4380
Telephone: 07 46836205
Email: admin@greenlanss.eq.edu.au
Website: www.greenlanss.eq.edu.au
Principal;
Mr. A. Helton
Dip.T., B.Ed.
M.Q.A.S.S.P., M.A.C.E.

PREP READINESS

Starting school is a major milestone in a child’s and a family’s life. It’s the start of a long partnership where families join our school community. We work together for the benefit and development of the child.

This document is designed to provide a few hints to new families about how they can ensure their child is ready for this big step.

How can parents support children in feeling happy and confident at school?

⇒ Make sure the child’s lunches and snacks are easy to unwrap and they know they don’t have to eat everything in one sitting.
⇒ Use shoes with Velcro fasteners until your child can be taught (at home) how to tie shoelaces.
⇒ Label EVERYTHING— including shoes and socks. It’s amazing how many un-named items our lost property box can get.
⇒ Put an extra pair of undies in a plastic bag; accidents do happen and it reassures the child to know they have ‘back up supplies’. The soiled undies can go home in the plastic bag.
⇒ Expect children to be tired for the first few weeks. Even if they are used to care situation— Prep at school is a big step up. Provide a cuddle, drink, snack and some quiet time when they first arrive home.
⇒ Make sure children have enough sleep— add an afternoon nap on weekends if your child seems over-tired.
⇒ Ask about their school day but expect you might get a shrug or off-hand reply. Learn to ask positive questions such as, “Tell me two good things that happened today”.
⇒ Always keep in touch with your teacher.
⇒ Read the school newsletters, email and other communication methods.
⇒ Involve yourself in the life of the school by helping with Parents & Citizen Association activities.
⇒ Volunteer to help in the classroom.

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PREP READINESS CHECKLIST

Below is a checklist you can work towards with your child so these can be achieved prior to starting prep, setting them up for a successful first year. Once your child has learnt a new skill, remember that regular practice, with lots of positive praise, will help to develop their confidence to do it again.

**Personal Development**
- Sits with legs crossed
- Sits on the floor and on a chair at a table to complete a task
- Is aware of the concepts of left and right
- Uses the toilet completely unassisted
- Recognises numbers to 5
- Counts to 10
- Names shapes and colours
- Developing independence (e.g. can open lunch box and put it in backpack, zip up bag, open containers, undo cling wrap, put on shoes)
- Reading to your child to develop a love of books, showing basic concepts such as front of the book and how to turn the pages
- Writes and recognises own name (see guide provided)
- Recognises some upper and lower case letters of the alphabet (see guide provided)
- Sings the alphabet
- Labels body parts (e.g. head, foot, mouth, shin)
- Is aware of print in the environment (e.g. McDonalds, stop signs)

**Social Development**
- Sits and listens to a story
- Separates easily from parents
- Listen to others
- Interacts with others
- Focuses on a task
- Takes turns in activities and games
- Uses manners with others e.g. please and thank you

**Speech & Language Development**
- Speaks clearly
- Speaks in sentences
- Requests what is needed from others clearly
- Follows 2 part instructions e.g. put your lunchbox away and wait at the door.
- Uses positional language (e.g. above/below/ between/ under/ before/ in front of etc. These can be played in games.)
- Says some nursery rhymes
- Recognises rhyming words

**Fine Motor Development**
- Holds a pencil correctly (see guide provided)
- Holds and uses scissors correctly (see guide provided)
- Threads beads and puts puzzles together

**Handwriting Script**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QLD Print</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABCDEFGHI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JKLmnopqr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUvwxyz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abcdefghijklmn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opqrstuvwxyz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0123456789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What happens before the first day?**
- Visit the school so the child knows where it is and what it looks like.
- Practise using their lunch box to ensure they can open it.
- Practise packing and unpacking their school bag
- Practise wearing the uniform for short periods at home.
- Make sure the child understands the importance of wearing a hat when at play.
- Assure the child you will be there ready for them at the end of the school day.

**What happens on the first day?**
- Time your arrival for about 8.30am.
- Promote independence by letting the child carry his / her bag.
- Help the child find the new classroom and meet their teacher.
- Help the child unpack his / her bag.
- Help them find an activity to do in class.
- When they are ready- say a quick goodbye and depart quickly (even if there are a few tears).
- At the end of the day, wait in the covered area for your child to leave their classroom.

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**Knowledge, Tolerance, Integrity**