

The WEE NIPPERS Years

A monthly column about learning for parents and caregivers of pre-schoolers.

Readiness for School

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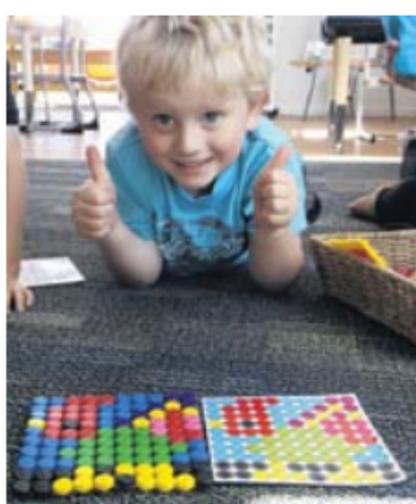
What do I need to do?

How will I know if my child is ready or not?

School readiness is quite the buzz in the 21st century! But what does it actually mean to be ready for school?

Like many of us growing

up we believed that reading, writing and mathematics were the most important. That a child had to be able to write their name, tie their shoelaces, open their lunch box, even know their numbers to 20 to be considered 'READY for school'.



The Big Picture

Parents and their (early childhood and I or primary) teacher tend to now see school readiness as part of a much bigger picture, not segmented. Preparing our children to transition to school is about helping them function within another environment that isn't home or their early childhood centre.

At Wee Nippers 'readiness' means working in partnership with our families to:

✓ **Develop Resiliency:** helping children to try new things and work it out; cope with change, new situations and new adults. We are so proud of our children at Wee Nippers and how they cope when they are introduced to new adults or routines. Even changing classes can create a great deal of anxiety for a child. Building children's self-esteem helps them more clearly communicate their ideas, questions and needs. "I know things, I have an opinion and I know I can cope".

✓ **Be socially competent:** guiding children to be caring, show respect for others and be an independent learner, "I can play with others and manage myself" "I have a sense of purpose in my play and work".

✓ **Have high expectations:** having high expectations for learning and socialising so that children can follow directions; have opportunities to problem-solve and concentrate; initiate conversations and participate in thinking conversations. "I am curious about the world", I ask questions and try things out".

As advocates for children we shouldn't overcomplicate school readiness but instead stay focused on the basic skills and essentials children need to be successful in school and in life!

WEE NIPPERS

Early Childhood Centre

Pre-enrolment visits welcome

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