

School Readiness

Ease the transition into the school environment; what the family can do.

Talk to your child about the fact that they will be going to a new school. It is okay to be nervous about something new.

Walk or drive by the new school. Visit drop in programs (like the OEYC) to promote social and separation skills.

Take your child to visit the new program location before they start school. Give them the opportunity to see the classroom and meet with their new teacher.

Allow them to have a good time in the new playground, visit the school library, go to the washroom, etc.

With the help of objects, pictures and books, introduce them to the concepts of forming new friendships and sharing toys.

Help your child learn the self-help skills they'll need to independent, (dress, toilet, food). Very important!

Allow them to make choices and decisions (snack, clothes).

Meet with the teacher to discuss things such as, the child's strong points, any allergies or special needs, favorite activities and certain areas where they may require more help.

Encourage communication between the care provider and the teacher. Find a way to communicate regularly with the teacher (telephone calls, meetings, emails, or notes).

Choose a backpack and snack containers that are easy for your child to use.

Read books about going to kindergarten. (See School Readiness Book List Tip Sheet)

Always say goodbye and tell your child, honestly, when you will see each other again. Avoid sneaking away, building a trusting understanding of drop off/pick up times is important

Make sure that the first day of school is not the first time your child has been separated from you. Too much stress on everyone!

Presented by the York Region Early Literacy Specialists

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www.familydaycare.com/oeyccentres/els_tips.html