

This information is for parents and carers who are considering enrolling their child in kindergarten at Curl Curl North Public School. Further details and information can be also obtained from our school office (02) 9905 1757.

Introduction

Starting school is an extremely important step for both you and your child. But how do you know if your child is ready? The 'Going to Primary School' page of the Department of Education and Training website provides guidelines to assist you in determining your child's readiness for school:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/primary/primaryindex.php>

Once you have made this important decision, it is our goal at Curl Curl North to ensure that your child feels happy and safe from their very first day. To achieve this goal, we have implemented an extensive information and orientation programme, an ongoing buddy system, and a welcoming approach to your child's first day of school.

Small Group School Tours

From April to September, our Principal, Mrs Penny Verdich, conducts tours of our school for small groups of parents and carers. The aim of these tours is to allow parents to observe our school operating as it does on a regular school day. The tour includes visits to classrooms, the library, hall, playground and other facilities. Kindergarten rooms are visited, enabling parents to see Kindergarten teachers and students at work and at play. Opportunity is provided for parents to ask questions of the Principal in an informal and relaxed setting. An invitation is extended to parents to follow up their visit with phone calls to ask specific questions pertaining to individual children.

Please phone the school on (02) 9905 1757 to book in for a school tour.

Coffee and Play

Parents or carers are invited to come along with their children to our Coffee and Play mornings. These are scheduled once a term and their purpose is to help the Kindergarten 2011 students become familiar with our school through informal play sessions. This is also a chance for parents to meet others who will be joining our school community.

Information Session – for parents

Parents are invited to an Information Session in October at which they will be given detailed information about their child's enrolment for the next year. Information folders will include details about ordering uniforms, important dates, school policies and procedures.

Kindergarten Orientation Sessions – for students

Once enrolled, your child will be invited to an Orientation Session in October or November. These sessions are extremely important. They provide your child with a taste of Kindergarten classroom activities and they provide the Kindergarten teachers with the chance to observe your child's interaction with others. At the Orientation Session, your child will be supported by a senior student.

Buddy System

The Buddy System is another initiative which has been embraced by our school community over several years. On the first day of school your child will be introduced to his or her "Buddy". The buddy will be a child from Year 5 or 6, whose role is to be a friend and look after their Kindergarten Buddy in the playground, once he or she starts school. This system provides dual benefits:

- Older children learn leadership and mentoring skills and have the opportunity to nurture their younger buddy.
- Kindergarten children will have a familiar face, someone to look after them when you are not around, someone to take them to the canteen, and someone to play with during those first few weeks until they begin to establish their own group of friends.

Best Start Assessment

As part of the Department of Education and Training's **Best Start** program, Curl Curl North Kindergarten teachers assess each student individually in the first few days of the school year (prior to your child's official first day at school). In December, you will be notified of your child's appointment time. See below for further information.

First Day of School

So that you and your child will feel comfortable at school from the very first day, information about Best Start Assessment procedures and the first day of school will be distributed at the end of 2010. The following practices have been introduced to make your child's first day at Curl Curl North Public School as stress free as possible:

- Staff members will be there to assist you with any queries and guide you and your child to the appropriate areas.
- Your child's buddy, will be there to meet you and join your child in the classroom and for morning tea and lunch.

How Do I Enrol?

Please download the enrolment form (follow the link on our website) or drop into the school office. Once you have completed the enrolment form, return it to the school, together with a copy of your child's birth certificate, up to date immunisation record and proof of address.

Please note that lodging your enrolment form at the school early will ensure your child receives an invitation to the Coffee and Play mornings, the Parent Information session and Orientation Visits.

This is to inform you about the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment*, that will take place at our school in Term 1.

What is the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment?

Children come to school with different levels of literacy and numeracy. Some are familiar with books, can recognise some letters, even write their name or count to ten, while others have not yet learned these skills.

Our Kindergarten teachers have always observed their new students and used different methods to find out what each child knows and can do so that they can plan and teach what their students need to learn next.

Our school takes part in *Best Start* developed by early learning experts in the Department of Education and Training. *Best Start* gives our teachers, and those teaching Kindergarten across New South Wales, a common set of high quality assessment tools and professional training.

We believe that *Best Start* will build on the strengths of our teachers and give your child an even better start to school.

Your child and the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

It is very important to emphasise that the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* is not a test. Its purpose is to help the teacher gather information to guide the teaching of your child.

The teacher will observe each child and use tasks, such as talking about a book that has been read, and record what their students know and can do. The teaching of your child will be based on the information gathered in these ways.

You will be given feedback about what your child's teacher has learned about your child, which you are welcome to discuss if you wish, in keeping with our usual practice.

What is being assessed?

The teacher will look at your child's early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns.

Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact me please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on telephone 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call me and will stay on the line to assist you with our conversation. You will not be charged for this service.