

Preparing children living in care for school transition

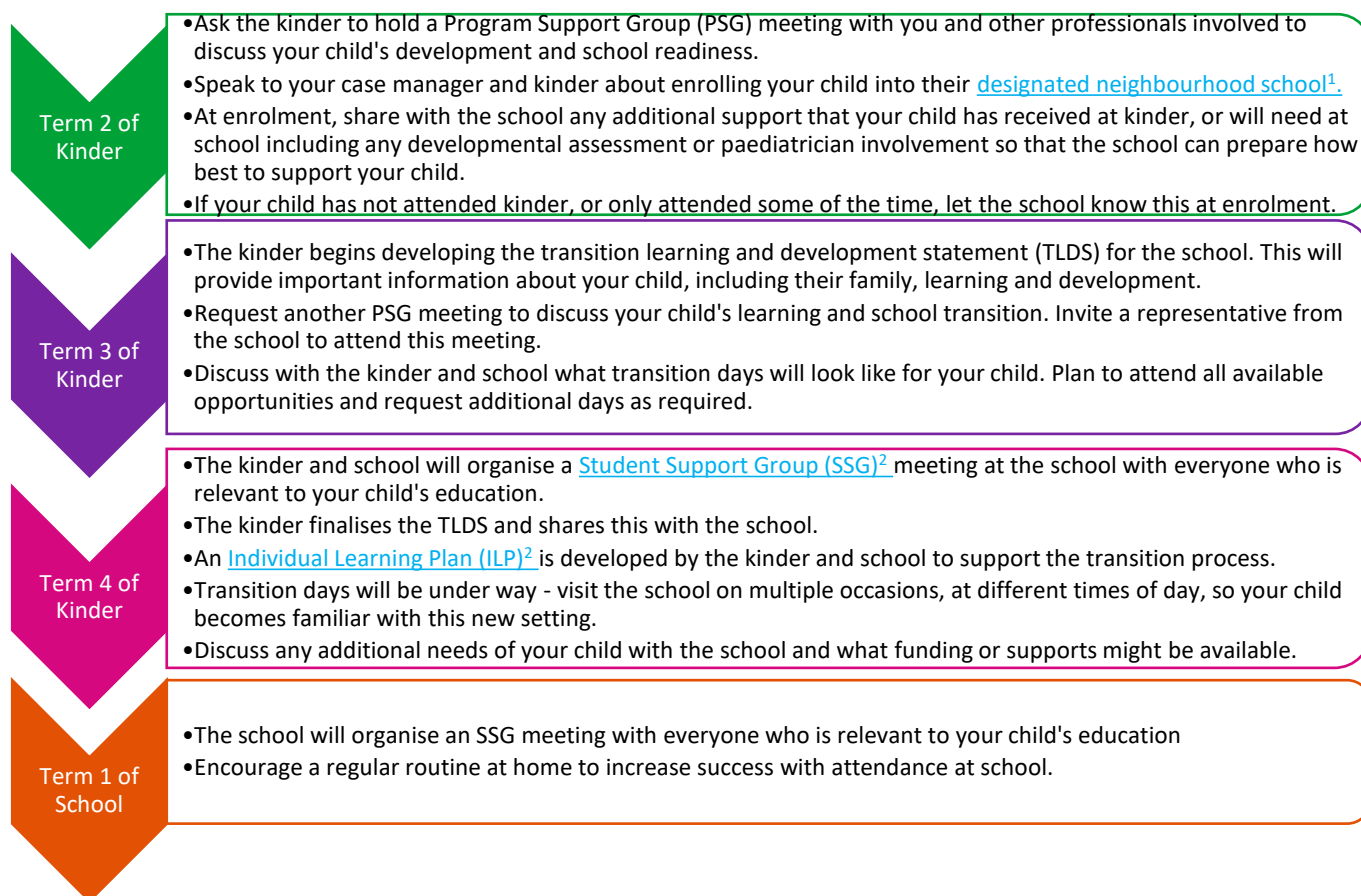
Starting school is an exciting step for a child – however it comes with lots of changes including a new learning environment, rules and routines, new friendships, and new teachers.

Speak to your case manager and kinder teacher about working together to support a smooth transition for your child. It is important to support and include children in the transition to promote a positive experience for the child. [This video](#) provides some tips on how to prep a child for prep.

How to prepare

- Talk positively and confidently about starting and attending school.
- Speak with your child about the change and start preparing for the new routine early e.g: regular bed-times, putting on the uniform, eating different packed lunches and packing their bag. Have some screen-free time and encourage play. Having a good routine in place will make the transition and regular attendance easier.
- Visit the school with your child before they start so they're familiar with the classrooms, playground equipment, toilets, sick bay etc.
- Meet the teachers that may be working with your child and speak about them regularly.
- Read books together about starting school such as [Eli's first day of school](#) or [Jimmy's first day of school](#). You can also ask the school for a social story to familiarise your child with what the school will look and feel like.
- Where possible, get involved in your child's school community e.g. orientation days or other social gatherings like school fetes, school assemblies and welcome barbecues.
- Involve your child in choosing their school bag, school uniform, lunch box etc. If you need support with this, talk to your school about the [State Schools' Relief](#) and [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#).
- Check out these great resources for more support: [VACCA Starting School](#), [Starting Blocks](#), [Association for Children with a Disability](#).

Key Timelines



¹ For more information, visit: www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au

² For more information, visit: www.cfecfw.asn.au/education-resource-hub

Questions to ask and things to think about

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| Can we set up a transition meeting with the school and the kinder? Will the teacher go and visit my child at kinder? | Have you received the transition learning and development statement (TLDS)? Would you like to discuss this further? | How many transition days are available? Is there flexibility for additional days? |
| My child is transitioning to school with a peer from kinder. Can they stay together? | Who will be my child's teacher? Who will support them to understand the care system and the impact of trauma? | Can/will my child still learn through play in the classroom? |
| Who is the Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO), and what support can they provide? | How is Aboriginal history and culture embedded into the curriculum? | Does the school do an Acknowledgement of Country? |
| My child has allied health supports. Can I share their contact details? | How can I tell you if my child is having a difficult day? Will you contact me if my child is not settling? | These things help my child feel safe and supported _____ |
| This helps make the day a 'good day' for my child _____ | These are my child's strengths and interests _____. How can these be encouraged? | These strategies were used successfully at kinder to support my child's learning and participation _____ |
| My child finds transitions to new environments tricky. Can I share with you how I support them? | These are the triggers (if any) that may lead to distressed behaviours for my child _____ | Are there any learning supports available? My child needs some support with _____ |
| Can I be involved with the school with reading programs, sport, excursions and/or canteen? | Who can I advise if my child is absent? | |