



## HELPING YOUR CHILD GET READY FOR SCHOOL

Helping your child get ready for school is very important. There are many ways you, as parents, can help your child prepare for school. This will make him/her more independent, confident and feel comfortable in their new environment.

**Fine Motor Skills** are necessary for your child to be able to perform school activities such as drawing, writing, painting and cutting with scissors. You can help your child develop these skills by encouraging him/her to thread with beads, play with play dough, use pegs, do up buttons, cut with blunt-tipped scissors and draw with crayons or pencils.

**Gross Motor Skills** need to be developed for your child to be able to perform activities such as running, jumping and hopping with co-ordination, as well as throwing and catching a ball.

**Read books** with your child. It is important that they are exposed to many books. They will learn a lot about concepts about print, for example holding the book the right way, knowing that the print contains a message, pictures tell a story, etc. Talk about the pictures and ask questions about the story.

Read street signs and numbers when in the car.

\*\*Your child might enjoy acting out a story, using some of the language in the book. This helps them become story tellers.

**Writing** Write with your child. Teach him/her how to write their name. This is important so that they can label all their work when they start school.

**ESL:** If you speak a language other than English at home, start introducing English at home as this will improve your child's vocabulary and enable him/her to communicate and follow instructions at school.

**Being independent** is important. It is a great help if your child can dress him/herself and use the toilet appropriately. The more independent your child is, the easier he/she will settle into school life.

### REMEMBER

It's always easier for children to learn when they are having fun!

