



GORDONTON SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Any child starting school deserves the greatest chance to achieve to the best of their ability. In the New Entrants class at Gordonton School, we have high expectations for the achievement of our children. The first few months of a child's schooling are critical. They are continuously introduced to new learning, both social and academic.

Included with this letter is a list of the expectations we have for a five year old starting school. This is a general list of expectations for **all** five year olds, allowing them to begin their school learning as soon as possible. If your child is able to accomplish all of our expectations you can be assured that their transition and their start to their formal education at Gordonton School will be a successful one.

Also included is the alphabet chart that they will be working on as soon as they begin school. The focus is to learn the sounds that the letters make. Many children begin school knowing a lot of the sounds which makes the start of reading and writing learning so much easier for them. The Word Worm is a list of the words they need to know for the early reading levels so an early start to knowing these is a huge advantage.

We hope you support us in these developments and are looking forward to seeing your child soon.

Thank you

Keith O'Donnell
Principal

REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS OF A 5 YEAR OLD STARTING SCHOOL

We believe that the average 5 year old entering Gordonton School should be able to:

1. Recognise and write their own name
2. Be able to use scissors
3. Sit and listen to a story
4. Sit and 'read' a book
5. Be toilet trained
6. Know the main colours – red, blue, green, yellow, pink, purple, black, brown, white and orange
7. Be able to use a tissue
8. Dress themselves
9. Able to do up the footwear they are wearing (laces can be difficult)
10. Rote count to 10 at least, and recognize numbers to at least 10
11. Recognise their own clothing, lunch box bag etc
12. Follow simple instructions
13. Mix socially with a small group
14. Be able to share for a short time with a small group
15. Hold a pencil
16. Be able to communicate with a small group

Other things that would be useful for their learning:

Begin learning the alphabet

Write numbers

Write letters

Aa
apple



Bb
ball



Cc
cat



Dd
dog



Ee
egg



Ff
fish



Gg
goat



Hh
house



Ii
insect



Jj
jug



Kk
kite



Ll
ladder



Mm
mouse



Nn
nail



Oo
octopus



Pp
pencil



Qq
queen



Rr
rabbit



Ss
sun



Tt
tortoise



Uu
umbrella



Vv
volcano



Ww
whale



Xx
x-ray



Yy
yacht



Zz
zebra



Please read the alphabet every day.

- Say -
1. the letter name
 2. the word
 3. the letter sound
 4. the word
- eg. a (name), apple, a (sound)

Our Word Worm



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Ways to support your child's learning at home in Maths



Always remember to write your numbers too!

Counting forwards

Counting backwards

Learning the **Days of the Week** in order

NB: When they are counting encourage correct pronunciation of **'teen'** and **'ty'** numbers (17 and 70)

Use a number line or flash cards for **number recognition** (Which number is 5?).

Using a number line or flash cards again, **hide one number** and ask your child what it is (make sure that the numbers are in order to start with when you do this).

Ask your child questions about numbers and **what comes before** and **what comes after**.

Ask your child **number problems**:

Eg If I have 2 lollies in this hand and get 2 more, how many lollies are there altogether?

Hold up fingers on hands to encourage quick recognition of **finger patterns**. This will help them a lot in grouping numbers by 5's and adding to 5 later on.

Play **card games**

Eg Snap, Memory, pairs that 'Make 10'

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15

4
5
6

1
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14

a b c d e f

g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t

u v w x y z