# Setting your child up for success: engaging in your child's learning and development in the early years

The journey map below provides an overview of the ways you can support your child to have the best possible start to life and learning.



### **BIRTH - 2 YEARS**

From the moment they are born, your child starts learning through relationships, play and exploration. Parents and carers are a child's first teacher and play an important role in supporting learning and development in the early years.

- Join a Maternal and Child Health (MACH) New Parent Group or attend an Understanding Your Baby Information Session.
- Help your child to make their first friends by joining an **ACT Playgroup**.
- Learn skills to boost your child's language development by attending a 'Giggle and Wiggle' session at an ACT Library.
- Book and attend free child health checks and immunisation appointments to monitor your child's growth and development and share successes and challenges.
- Talk to your Maternal and Child Health Nurse or contact your Child and Family Centre about programs and support available to you.
- If you would like your child to attend an early childhood education and care (ECEC) service, arrange a visit and submit an application.
   Tips for selecting a service and other helpful information can be found here.

#### > 3 YEARS

- Visit the Starting Blocks website to learn about child developmental milestones and ways you can support your child's growth, learning and development.
- If attending an ECEC service, talk regularly with educators about your child - their strengths, interests and any concerns you have. The service can help support you and your child to learn and develop.
- If you have any specific concerns about your child's communication, social, movement, gross or fine motor skills, you may like to attend one of the Child Development Service Drop In Clinics.
- From three years old your child may be eligible to participate in early entry to preschool or

**Koori Preschool**. Enrolments are taken throughout the year.



During the first five years, your child's brain is developing at a rapid rate. Their experiences and interactions are creating millions of connections in their brains. The relationships your child develops now will build the foundations for their communication and social skills.

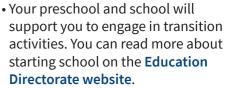
## **4 YEARS**

There is overwhelming evidence suggesting that *quality early* childhood education helps children to have the best start to life. Play based learning focused on communication, language and relationships forms the basis of preschool programs in the ACT.

- Support your child to develop a love of books and reading by attending a 'Story Time' session at an ACT Library.
- If your child turns four on or before 30 April, they can attend a Preschool program at a public preschool, Early Learning Centre or ECEC from the first day of Term 1 that year. Enrolment opens on the first day of Term 2, the year before commencement.
- The Preschool Pathways resources can assist you to support your child in their transition to preschool.
- Continue to book and attend free child health checks and immunisation appointments.
- All ECEC settings in the ACT implement the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), which emphasises play based learning. Play is an important aspect of early learning that helps children to develop imagination, social, communication, language and physical skills in a fun way.

## **5 – 6 YEARS**





- My First Day At Big School is a story about settling down nerves as children contemplate big school.
   We're Excited is a great story about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids starting kindy.
- Get ideas for packing a healthy lunchbox to ensure your child has the energy to learn and play.
- At the beginning and end of Kindergarten, your child will participate in a BASE assessment to assess their literacy and numeracy skills. This testing assists teachers to plan targeted programs for all students. Your school will provide you with more information in Term 1.
- When your child is in Kindergarten they will participate in a Kindergarten Health Check. Your school will provide you with more information in Term 1.

education and the life chances which flow from it. Schools in the ACT ensure your child has the best possible foundations for learning, school experience and opportunity to achieve excellent outcomes.



Education Directorate - Early Childhood Information www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood Education Directorate - Enrolment Information www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school/enrolling-in-preschool

ACT Health - Early Parenthood and Paediatric services
www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/
services-and-clinics/early-parenthood-and-paediatric-services
Child Development Services - Drop In Clinics
www.communityservices.act.gov.au/
childdevelopmentservice/drop-in-clinics

ACT Playgroups
playgroupact.org.au
Libraries ACT
www.library.act.gov.au
Starting Blocks
www.startingblocks.gov.au