



Getting Ready for Meadowbank School

We would like to welcome you to Meadowbank School. The next couple of pages will give you some useful information on how to support your child as they transition into their new school.

ENROLLING EARLY

We encourage you to enrol your child as soon as you decide where you would like them to go to school, ideally around their fourth birthday. Early enrolment supports the school with funding and teacher organisation.

To enrol please contact our Senior Office at 68 Waitarua Road for an enrolment pack; telephone 09520 3739 (ext 700) or email ccallinan@meadowbank.school.nz. Our office staff will go through what you need to complete your enrolment. You will need your child's birth certificate, their Immunisation Certificate and a document providing proof of where you live (such as a power bill or tenancy agreement).

You will receive an information pack a couple of months before your child's fifth birthday, detailing the dates of their two half-day visits prior to their fifth birthday, the name of their class teacher and stationery and uniform requirements.

GETTING READY

Starting school is an exciting time for children but it can also create feelings of anxiety. To support your child in making the transition into school here are a few things you might like to do to prepare them for the new experience.

Get to know the Environment

Spend some time exploring the school site. Meadowbank has a large split site, so it is important you do explore the whole area, but with a greater focus on the Junior areas. Play on the playground, in the Lorax Garden, look for the toilets and show your child how to use the water fountains. Talk about the safety aspect of the yellow lines and where it is safe to play. Look for your child's room and, if possible, look through the windows and talk about what you can see.

Take the route you would in the morning to school. Support your child getting to know how they will come to school and what will happen at the end of the day. If you are enrolling in Club Meadowbank show your child the oak tree (on the Junior site) and the school hall (on the Senior site).

Stationery and Uniform

You will be provided with a stationery list for your child. Stationery packs for each year level will be available from Paper Plus Meadowbank. Ensure stationery is labelled and ready for the first day of school. If possible, bring stationery to school on your child's visit day.

Our uniform is available from NZ Uniforms at Unit 4, 531 Great South Road, Penrose and also [online](#). During term time, second hand uniform items are for sale in our Junior Office at 41-51 Kelvin Road from 1.30-3pm on Friday afternoons and during the first week of each new school term. Stock levels vary depending on the donation of uniform items. Ensure all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's full name.

Readiness for School Skills

You can support your child's school readiness by encouraging them to:

- sit on a chair at a table for short periods of time to complete an activity.
- ask for things they need.
- be comfortable being away from you.
- know how to take turns or wait for things.
- toilet independently and wash and dry hands.
- eat packed lunches (open their lunchbox and water bottle, zip up bag)
- Put on and take off their socks, shoes and jumpers.
- Be responsible for personal belongings and put them in their bag.
- Listen and follow instructions.
- Playing kindly with friends.

It is helpful, but not essential for your child to:

- speak clearly and in full sentences.
- hold a pencil in the correct grip.
- use scissors.
- recognise and write their name.
- listen to stories and nursery rhymes.
- know some letter names or sounds.
- count to 10.
- read numbers to 10.
- recognise colours and shapes.

Once they have started school and their teacher has assessed what your child can do, they will develop a learning programme. If your child can already recognise some words, their teacher will take that into account when developing your child's learning programme.

Useful Websites

Visit these Ministry of Education websites for additional information about starting school.

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal>

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/guide-for-the-new-zealand-curriculum-years-0-to-8/first-6-months-at-school/preparing-for-the-first-day-of-school#what-you-can-expect-on-school-visits-1>

AT SCHOOL

What time should I come to school?

It is important you are on time for school. The classroom opens at 8.30am and learning begins promptly at 8.50am. Lots of social things happen before 8.50am and it provides your child with the opportunity to ready themselves for the school day. They can be responsible for hanging their bags and jackets on their pegs and getting their book bags ready. During this time, they can interact with friends and the teacher, making the separation from you smoother.

Talk to the teacher

Please share information with your child's teacher. If you have any concerns about your child, it is important their teacher is made aware. These may be related to health, behaviour, social aspects, learning etc.

Morning Tea and Lunch

When visiting the school site bring a packed lunch and encourage your child to practise opening their lunch box and carrying it for themselves. Meadowbank is a 'Beyond Green Gold Enviro School' and we encourage litterless lunches. If you can, use plastic containers for snacks encourage your child to open and close these, either by unclipping or unscrewing. We also suggest a balanced diet and encourage the selection of fruits, raw vegetables and healthy snacks over chocolates, lollies and chips. Water is also essential to keep your child hydrated and ready to learn.

Making Friends

Establishing friendships with other children is an important part of school life. A great way to encourage friendships is through arranging playdates with a wide range of children in your child's class.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

Reading

We recognise our students have lots of out-of-school commitments and also value your 'family' and 'down' time. We ask that each night students and their parents spend around 15 minutes a day on the literacy tasks which are shared in their reading log.

In the early stages these tasks may include learning letter sounds, practising blending and segmenting words, handwriting formation and learning to spell 'heart' words. A class poem and library book will come home once a week for your child to share with you.

Once a child is ready to read, books will begin to be sent home. The book may be a new text (which they have read in class with their teacher) or one that they have had before. Rereading familiar books helps with reading mileage, and developing fluency.

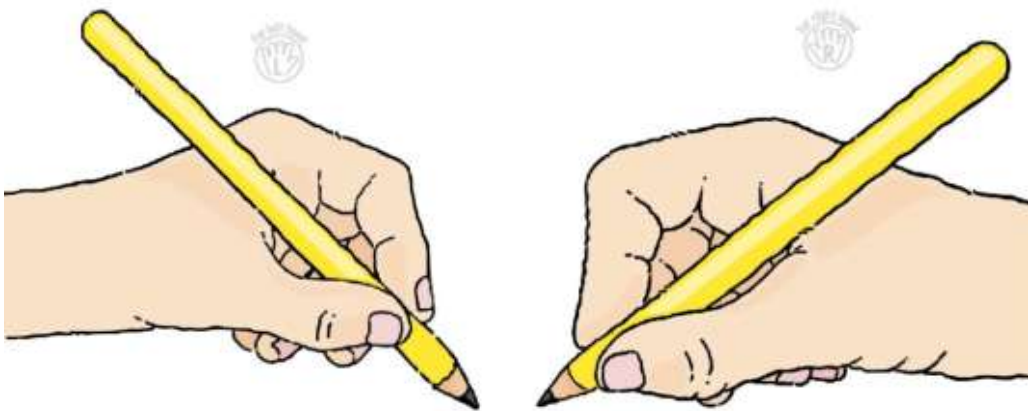
In the early stages of reading, the most powerful support you can give at home is reading to your child and discussing what has been read for oral language development.

Maths

To support your child with maths you can make the most of daily activities and games. Use the local environment to support number recognition and sequence by reading house numbers, counting cars, counting out fruit at the super market etc. You may wish to complete simple sums, such as I have three apples and I get two more, how many do I now have? Your child's teacher will be able to suggest additional activities to suit individual needs.

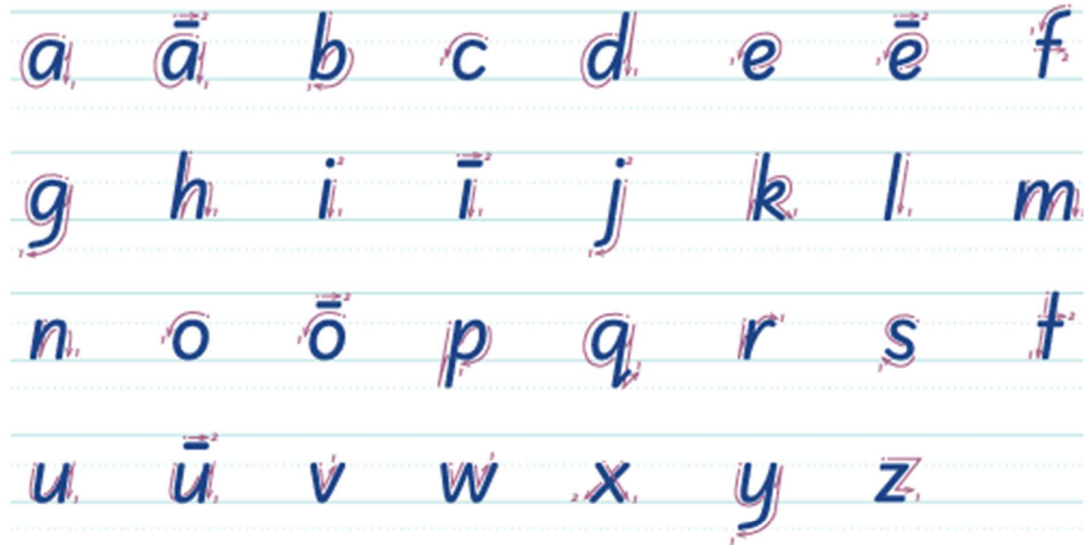
Handwriting

Provide your child with access to pens, jovi crayons, felt tips, pencils, paper and scissors and encourage them to be creative and make marks and form letters. Practise writing their name using a capital letter to begin. Support your child to hold the pencil correctly and model the correct formation of letters with a focus on lower case letters.



Basic script letter formation guide

Lowercase



Capital letters



Numerals

