

If you require further information or if you wish to find your nearest **Early Childhood Service** or **School**

### Contact

WestREAP  
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Rural Education Activities Programme

# Preparing for School



Recommendations and ideas to support you and your child to get ready for school

Developed by the **Hokitika Transition to School Network** group consisting of **Early Childhood, Primary School Teachers** and **WestREAP** in the **Westland District**

## Some skills to work on with your children

### Persisting with difficulties, challenges and uncertainties

- Having experiences with pencils and scissors
- Jumping, hopping and skipping
- Able to give things a go
- Taking turns
- Able to be away from you

### Taking an interest

- Counting to 10 and recognise numbers 1-10
- Recognising colours and shapes
- Listening to stories and rhymes
- Answering a logical question
- Recognising and start to write their name

### Expressing a point of view

- Using manners
- Speaking in clear sentences
- Sharing an idea and feelings

### Being Involved

- Following instructions
- Able to sit still and listen
- Completing an activity with a partner

### Taking Responsibility

- Able to carry their own bag
- Able to look after their belongings
- Able to manage their own lunch
- Able to dress them self



## Some activities you can do with your children

- Encourage your child to try something new and praise them when they finish the task
- **Cut out pictures, shapes and colours from magazines/junk mail and glue onto paper and make a collage**
- Play games and let them experience winning and losing
- **Play jumping, hopping and skipping games with the family**
- Read books to your child about a topic of their interest
- **When your child takes an interest in something, encourage and engage them in conversation using counting, colours, shapes etc**
- When out and about, talk about the numbers on the letterboxes/signs, count cars and play I spy using sounds and colours
- **Talk about pictures they have drawn**
- Make a scrapbook or photo album of interests
- **Recall a special event and talk or draw a picture about it and how it made you feel—talk about emotions/feelings**
- Encourage your child to share ideas and extend on this with open ended questions, - i.e. why do you think that?
- **Talk about the pictures in a book you are reading**
- Give choices around clothing or food
- **Role play and model manners—please, thank you, excuse me**
- Play group games for example Twister, Snakes and Ladders, cards
- **Play with Lego/blocks together —encourage following instructions and taking turns**
- Have a treasure hunt, hide objects/look for colours
- **Ask your child to give instructions when driving home or going on walks, use words such as left, right, forwards, backwards**
- Give your child one instruction at a time and increase to 2, 3 as they become more able
- **Let your child take responsibility for their own things such as carrying their own bag**
- Teach your child to unwrap their lunch
- **Take your child swimming and encourage independent dressing**
- Encourage your child to help prepare their own lunchboxes, help prepare dinner, set the table, go on a picnic