



## Help your children to start school well!

Starting school can be a big change for your child and family. The following advice is based on research and the Fathering Project's years of experience supporting fathers and father-figures. It is aimed at helping Dads to support their children when starting school, through positive, meaningful engagement.

### Plan your school involvement for 2021.

Children love seeing dad at school. Dads, you can get involved with your child's school by:

- **Lending a hand**

Plan at the start of the year how often you can volunteer - in the canteen, at camp, excursions or in the classroom and on working bee days.

- **Committing to dates**

Once you've finalised the days you're volunteering, block them in your diary.

- **Being part of the community**

Getting involved in your children's school community helps dads connect with teachers, school friends and other school parents.

### Supporting their learning.

Education empowers children to interpret the world around them. You can encourage your children's learning by showing interest.

- **Show you are interested**

Enthusiasm in your child's work encourages them to put greater value on their education.

- **Talk about feelings**

Teach your child to recognise and name their feelings.

- **Continue with play time**

Play time with you is important to your child's learning and development because it encourages exploration, discovery, negotiation, risk taking, and problem-solving.

Play games that practise friendly behaviour. Taking turns, being fair, sharing, controlling emotions, cooperating.



Be in partnership with the school.

By developing a good relationship with the school and your child's teachers, you send powerful positive messages to your child about the importance of school and learning.

- **Get to know the teacher/s**

Meet the teacher/s and let them know you want to stay in touch.

Share information about your child that may be helpful for their progress.

- **Make time to attend class parent meetings**

If you can't attend, book another time.

Reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

- **Get school communications**

Ensure you are receiving and reading online communications from the school.

- **Find the right time**

If your child receives work to do at home, set a routine after school for play and homework so the children know what's expected of them each week.

The Fathering Project recognises fathers and father-figures play a vital role in children's lives. There is strong evidence demonstrating fathers' and father-figures potential to positively influence their children's health, social and emotional wellbeing and academic success.

For more helpful tips for dads and father figures of children starting school, visit [www.thefatheringproject.org](http://www.thefatheringproject.org)

**Join our Dads Group! Contact the school or go to [www.thefatheringproject.org](http://www.thefatheringproject.org)**

