

Children—and their parents—can be nervous about starting their first year of school

... and the questions don't just end after information night; or even after the first day, week or term.

As a busy principal, you and your teachers simply can't be there to answer every question a child or their parents may have in this daunting year.

What if you could be there 24/7 to guide families through one of the most important milestones of their life?

Your child's first year at school: A book for parents is like **a take-home information night** for families



“ The orientation process was helpful but at the time it was almost ‘information overload’. A book like *Your child's first year at school* is great! ”

—Christine, parent, Fulham Gardens Primary School, SA

How does the book support families?

Your child's first year at school: A book for parents talks about what parents want to know as their child starts school, including:

- › Teaching children about **friendships**, overcoming shyness and how to support them when they are lonely—so they can build **lifelong social skills** and create friends for life.
- › Simple measures to help their child **avoid obesity**—without ‘making a fuss’ over what they eat.
- › Adjusting to **their child's own unique pattern of learning and development**—and allowing for the highs as well as the lows.
- › The three key skills and abilities which lead to ‘**literacy understandings**’.
- › How **maths** has changed since they were at school—seeing numbers in everyday life.
- › How to **communicate positively** to strengthen their relationship with their child—to let them feel safe, loved and comforted.
- › Helping children understand the difference between **real and make-believe**, what's yours and what's not, and winning and losing.
- › The steps to take to **resolve problems** and concerns between parents, children and the school.



Your child's first year at school: A book for parents is an outstanding publication that offers a wealth of practical advice for the family of a new school child.

‘It sensitively tackles many of the issues that cause concern for both parents and students, and suggests ways of minimising stress so that all can celebrate this wonderful milestone in a child's life.

‘The emphasis on social skill development as well as academic achievement make this book a must have for every family with a child starting school.

—Julia Eley,
Head of Junior School,
Roseville College, NSW

An excellent publication which is now an integral part of our school's approach to building parent relationships.

—Craig Wheatley,
Head of Preparatory School,
Guildford Grammar, WA

Why does my school need this book?

It enhances the parent–school relationship

A good relationship between parents and the school is crucial to a child's successful first year at school, and their entire school lives. Providing parents with this informative guide helps develop this relationship from the beginning.

It strengthens your school's message to parents and children

Your child's first year at school is a valuable investment—a resource that will positively impact on the lives of children and their families, as well as the school.

Parents benefit most from having individual copies of the book, so they can refer to it all year round

Support your families by setting them up for a successful start to school life—giving parents individual copies of *Your child's first year at school* means they can refer back to it throughout the year.



Having access to the information inside the book supported me and my teachers in welcoming the new parents and children to our school.'

—Col O'Brien, Principal, Our Lady of the Rosary School, Qld

'This book saved our leadership team a lot of work. It was very popular among parents, especially those who had not been involved in school before. A brilliant purchase!

—Christine Hatzl, Principal, West Lakes Shore Primary, SA



About the authors

Experienced parenting experts and educators Jenni Connor and Pam Linke, in consultation with the Australian Primary Principals Association, have distilled a principal's knowledge and guidance into *Your child's first year at school*.

Their real-world advice and positive approach will answer all your parent's questions and assist them in supporting their children throughout one of the most important years of their lives.



Jenni Connor has been a principal, teacher, curriculum manager and author. Jenni's knowledge of children's learning—particularly literacy and numeracy—has been sought by governments, primary schools and parent organisations alike.



As a parenting and child health expert, **Pam Linke** has written many practical and knowledgeable books on how to support children's behaviour and emotional wellbeing, and is actively involved in many child advocacy organisations.



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- a strong school-parent relationship
- a positive school experience.



*Your child's first year at school:
A book for parents*

by Jenni Connor and Pam Linke

Produced by Early Childhood Australia and the
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A good first year at school lasts a lifetime

Ensure families have a successful first year with *Your child's first year at school: A book for parents*



Your child's first year at school: A book for parents was produced by the Australian Primary Principals Association and Early Childhood Australia to support parents of children starting school.

Australian Primary Principals Association is the national primary principals' organisation.

Early Childhood Australia, a non-profit organisation, has been advocating for young children for 70 years.

