



School STaRT (Comprehensive) Orientation to School Program

The aim of the Orientation to School Program is to support

- children with additional needs transitioning from before school services to school to ensure school commencement is as successful as possible
- all those involved in the process including the child, family and receiving school to ensure they are prepared for the transition process

The orientation to school program will involve preparation of

1. the family
2. the child
3. the proposed school staff

Family preparation will include:

- liaising with the family regarding school options
- providing information regarding
 - documentation for school enrolment
 - school sector information sessions
 - school enrolment procedures
 - 'Preparing your child for school'
- family awareness of the school's routines
- liaising with families regarding their child's supported school visits
- organizing the initial school Learning Support Team meeting and supporting the parent through the meeting
- liaising with families/supporting the child in term 1 of the school year (where required)

Child preparation will include:

- preparing the child for the school visits
- supported school visits (approximately 8 x 2hr sessions)
- familiarization with typical school/classroom routines
- developing materials e.g. visuals to support school readiness
- individual needs based programs (where required) e.g. behaviour management, social interactions etc.

Preparation/support for the school will include:

- liaising with the school re transition support
- supporting the child during planned school visits prior to commencing school
- liaising with school staff
- implementing school approved strategies to support the child's transition
- modeling strategies to support the child's individual needs
- assisting in school/child support applications
- involvement in the child's school Learning Support Team meeting
- providing and discussing a written report for school staff detailing the child's current functioning in all developmental areas and general information regarding the child's strengths and areas of need
- term 1 school support visits where required

Orientation can only take place with the consent of the proposed school. Supported school visits would generally occur once per week for the 8 sessions however this can be flexible. Each session would be approximately two hours and span a morning tea and/or lunch period. It may be possible for some of the sessions to be held over as school support visits at the commencement of the school year. The family will be required to transport their child to and from the proposed school for all school visits.

Cost: \$2,145 (includes approximately 8 school sessions)

It is recommended that the child also participates in the Preparation for School Program at least 6 months before commencing school.

For information contact:

Elise de Jong STaR Association

[t] 9888 3717 [e] elise@star.org.au