

**Parenting Tips  
from  
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**Opening times : Monday to Friday 12 PM to 4 PM**

### **Helping children learn**

Children's first teachers are their parents and their first classroom is the family home. When a child begins school, the importance of a parent's teaching role doesn't diminish-it is supplemented by a more formal approach to learning. While children may learn skills and acknowledge in new ways, the place of parents in their children's education is still as crucial as ever.

- Stay in contact with your child's classroom teacher and follow his or her individual guidelines regarding helping at home.
- Set aside a regular time for homework and other educational activities. Even if no formal work is set, this time can be used for reading or other learning activities appropriate to your child's age.
- Read regularly with your children and make it fun. It is not so much whether children can read but whether they do read that is significant.
- Promote self-confidence in your children as learners by valuing their efforts and encourage them to 'have a go'.
- Make the most of the informal learning opportunities that occur all the time at home. Cooking a meal, driving a car, even chopping wood can promote their language and maths abilities. "That wheelbarrow must hold about 100 kilograms of wood'.
- Provide children with a broad range of experiences that they can talk and write about at school. Activities don't have to be expensive. A walk along the beach at low tide is fun, a wonderful learning experience and costs nothing.
- Establish realistic expectations for children and don't be disappointed if they make mistakes when they learn. Mistakes are part of learning and improving.

**We invite you to visit our Centre to 'check out' the wide range of information that we have available for you to browse or borrow.**