



Starting a Parent & Carer Library

for Preschool or Kindergarten parents



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

A few benefits of a Parent Library

01 - Parent Engagement

Small libraries provide parents with easy access to educational resources, offering guidance on a range of subjects. They can be an invitation to gather or participate.

02 - Early Literacy & transition

Libraries encourage reading at home and offer materials that help children transition to school smoothly, providing resources to navigate this important milestone.

03 - Stronger Community

Parent libraries foster a sense of community by creating a shared space for parents to connect, exchange ideas, and support one another. They also provide affordable access to resources, making learning more inclusive and accessible to all families.

Planning a Library



Determine the Library's Purpose ie. supporting parents in their children's transition to school, promoting reading or play.

Involve Stakeholders: Engage the preschool teachers, parents, and perhaps even children in decisions like book selection, setup, and management.



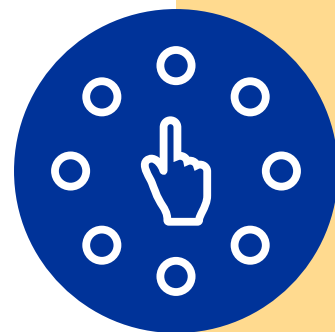
Secure a Budget or Donations: Consider applying for grant funding or asking for donations.

Selecting Resources



Parent Resources might include books on educational and developmental milestones and books about the essential nature of play or nature play.

Books to read with children could include books about making friends or about feelings, or books that help children transition to school.



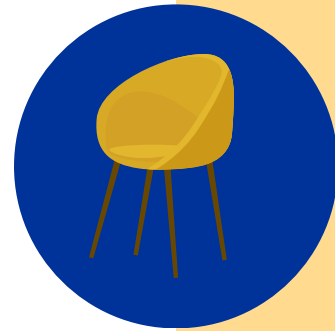
See Council's Resource Pack for more books on starting school.

Add valuable documents like ECA's Statement on Play and other school guides for parents. Library Membership Information from Libraries ACT bookmarks and pamphlets that inform parents about borrowing books from local libraries.

Location



Find a space within the school or preschool that's easily accessible to parents but doesn't interfere with daily school activities.



Organize the Space:
Simple bookshelves or book baskets are useful for displaying books attractively.

Seating: Consider adding a small seating area where parents can browse through books while waiting for their children.

Loan System



Sign-out System:

A physical logbook or an electronic system to track who borrows and returns books.

Loan Duration: how long books can be borrowed for and how many books parents can be borrowed.

Labeling: use stickers or cards to label books for easy identification.



Promote



Tell parents about your Library! through newsletters and announcements, meetings, and at drop-off times.



Offer a brief orientation and signage to parents on how to use the library.

Involve Parents:

Consider inviting parents to donate gently used books or take part in maintaining the library.

Collection suggestions

01 - Transition to School

Starting School by Jane Godwin and Anna Walker
Spot Goes to School by Eric Hill
Wombat Goes To School by Jackie French
I am Too Absolutely Small for School
Old Friends New Friends by Andrew Daddo
What's In My Lunchbox by Peter Carnavas

02 - Play

Let the Children Play: How More Play Will Save Our Schools and Help Children Thrive, Pasi Sahlberg & William Doyle

03 - Developmental Milestones

Developmental milestones and the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/developmental-milestones>

The image features a solid blue background with decorative geometric patterns in the corners. These patterns consist of overlapping semi-circles and quarter-circles in white, yellow, orange, and light blue. The top-right and bottom-left corners have more complex, multi-colored arrangements, while the top-left and bottom-right corners have simpler, two-color (white and yellow) designs.

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