



Ulladulla Public School Presents



Is Your Child Coming to School in 2025?

Erin Leathbridge and Paula Seagrave

Kindergarten Assistant Principals (Relieving)



Scan to visit the UPS Kindergarten enrolment page

Is Your Child Going To School Next Year?

In NSW, children can start Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn 5 on or before 31 July in that year. All children must be enrolled in school by their 6th birthday in NSW.

The decision about when is the best time for your child to start school is an individual one. For some children, starting school at age 6 rather than 5 may provide them with an additional year to mature and increase their independence. It can help to discuss the timing of your child's school entry with people who know your child well and also have an understanding of the school system. These people could include your child's early childhood teacher or your local school. When making this decision, it is important to think about how this decision will affect your whole family and the lifelong learning of your child.

Starting school is a big step!

This booklet contains a range of specific activities which can help prepare your child for school in 2025.

English

Encourage your children to:

- **Talk with you about everything!** Encourage good grammar and complete simple sentences. Children, who speak well, will be great readers and writers later on!
- **Listen to a story** that is read to them by a family member or visit the local library for story time. It would be beneficial for your child to listen to quality books read to them every day.
- **Sing songs and nursery rhymes daily.**
- **Look at a variety of books (factual and fictional) independently.** Things such as holding the book the right way up and being able to turn pages. Your child will not be able to read yet - this is something that will develop later on - but children can learn to love books by looking at them.
- **Play clapping and rhyming games.**
- **Know and identify their name,** and if they are ready, be able to write it in lower case letters as well.
- **Trace or copy lower case letters and shapes,** using thick pencils to start with.
- **Hold their pencil between their thumb and pointer finger.**
- **Point out letters and words in everyday situations,** on street signs and at the supermarket.
- **Use a variety of art/craft tools** (textas and pencils, paint and brushes, scissors and glue).

Mathematics

Encourage your children to:

- **Sing counting songs.**
- **Count a variety of objects** and understand the relationship between objects and the number. You can do this by counting stairs or steps, collections of toys and when buying lots of one item.
- **Identify a variety of colours.**
- **Play games such dominoes, and games that need the roll of dice such as variety of board games.**

Social Skills

Encourage your children to:

- Complete tasks and tidy up afterwards.
- Play co-operatively with friends for 15 minutes or more.
- Share their own toys with friends.
- Take turns in a small group game without assistance.
- Face a person when they are talking and give "eye contact".
- Sit at a table and work for 10 minutes (with assistance).
- Play at an activity for 15 minutes or more.
- Understand the needs and feelings of others.

Personal Skills

Encourage your children to:

- Be able to separate from you at school.
- Be able to follow verbal instructions.
- Look after their own belongings, such as hats and jumpers.
- Develop self-control when things go wrong.
- Follow rules for their safety and the safety of others.
- Be able to open and close their lunch box and drink bottle.
- Be confident unwrapping their sandwiches and other items, such as muesli bars and chip packets in their lunch box. Try packing a lunch box and going to the park for a picnic.
- Be able to use the toilet and a tissue independently.

Useful Websites

Ulladulla Public School Website	http://www.ulladulla-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/
Ulladulla Facebook Page	www.facebook.com/ulladullapublicschool
Department of Education	https://education.nsw.gov.au/
Illawarra Transition to School Project	www.transitiontoschool.com.au
Kids First Children's Services	www.kids-first.com.au
Study Ladder	www.study ladder.com.au
Children's Books	www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/ages-3-5

Important Dates for Kindergarten 2025

<i>School Readiness Information Session</i>	Monday 17 June 2024 5 pm – 6 pm
<i>Getting To Know You Interviews</i>	Monday 2 September – Wednesday 4 September 2024
<i>Kindergarten Orientation</i>	Session 1 Tuesday 12 November 2024 Wednesday 13 November 2024 Session 2 Tuesday 19 November 2024 Wednesday 20 November 2024

Top Ten Tips for Parents of Children Starting Kindergarten

1. Have all documentation ready for enrolment

There are several documents that we need before your child's enrolment can be finalised. These documents include: birth certificate, proof of address and immunisation record. Enrolment is completed online at <https://ulladulla-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/kindergarten-enrolment.html>. All documents need to be provided before the 'getting to know you' interview in early September.

2. Provide up to date contact details and emergency contact numbers

The school might need to contact you urgently. Providing the correct details and keeping them up to date in the office will help us. Provide alternative numbers and contacts in case the school is unable to contact you.

3. Give all information about your child to the school especially medical and special needs

You know your child best. Help the teacher understand your child better and faster by sharing information and insights. If your child has any medical or special needs, ensure the school knows before they start so any plans can be put into place.

4. Make the school aware of any special family circumstances

Changes to your child's family situation can impact their emotional and academic well-being. Inform your child's teacher and principal about any changed circumstances so that your child can be supported at school. These may include birth of a sibling, divorce or the death of a loved one.

5. Become familiar with teachers and school activities

Parents and caregivers set an example. If you are positive and encouraging towards school, your child will be too.

6. Make sure your child is road/travel safe

Children should know to cross the road only at marked crossings. Please set a good example, taking care when you drop off and collect your child from school.

7. Educate your child about stranger danger

Teach your child not to talk to strangers. They should not accept gifts or lifts from someone they don't know.

8. Establish routines with your child and stick to them

Prepare your child for a more structured day. Make a daily routine that includes mealtimes, reading time, bedtime and play times.

9. Label all equipment and clothing

Replacing lost clothing and equipment is expensive and inconvenient. You should clearly mark every item with your child's name.

10. The 'first drop off'

Don't worry, tears are totally normal and most children stop crying before the lunch bell rings. When you're leaving your child and they are upset, explain to them that you will be back to collect them at the end of school, that you love them and give them one last cuddle. If there are any problems the class teacher will contact you straight away.