



QUEEN EMMA

Suggestions for a Smooth Transition to School

We offer the following suggestions to help prepare you and your child for the first days of school.

1. Provide a basic understanding of the program before your child begins.
2. Speak in general terms. If your child expects specific activities this could lead to disappointments.
3. If at all possible, visit with only the child that will be entering. This reassures your child that they are valued and that entering school is a significant moment in their life. This will also make it easier for us to review pertinent information with you.
4. On your initial visits explain to your child that you will be staying with him/her because you are just visiting.
5. From the first day, create a reasonable transition routine that you can continue and your child can expect. This could be setting up their breakfast and then saying “Good-bye” or reading one story or playing with one puzzle before you leave. Talk about the routine so your child will understand this is the transition to school. When you are ready to leave, let your child and the teacher know then leave your child in the care of the teacher. Exit calmly even if your child cries. If your child discovers that you will return when they cry, a habit may form that will grow more difficult over time. On the other hand, your child will sense your confidence in the teachers and fears will be dispelled.
6. Tell your child you will be back after lunch to pick them up. Saying, “Don’t cry. I’ll be right back!” would not be honest.
7. If someone other than you will be doing the drop-off and pick-up, please share these ideas and routines with them. Let them know we will ask for a picture ID to verify they are the authorized pick-up person.
8. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss them with me or your child’s teachers.