

Kinder to School Project - support for families from refugee backgrounds.

Kindergarten to Primary School Transition webinar series for families from refugee backgrounds

A project to deliver a four-part Webinar series, developed and delivered in four languages (Arabic, Chin, Karen and Dinka) across four months, aiming to support children and families from refugee backgrounds

- Webinar 1– Overview: Helping our children transition from kinder to school
- Webinar 2 – Supporting my child over the holidays and getting ready for school
- Webinar 3– Preparing for the first day of school
- Webinar 4– Being partners with your school

Additionally, a short message about Early Start Kindergarten was recorded.

Short message about Early Start Kindergarten	
<p>Good news for families from refugee or asylum-seeker backgrounds who live in Victoria and have three-year-old children. We would like to let you know that starting from this year 2021, your children can receive 15 hours per week of FREE kindergarten through funding called Early Start Kindergarten.</p> <p>Early Start Kindergarten is available in all kindergarten programs delivered by qualified teachers. You can enrol your children by contacting your local Council or any kindergarten that is near to you and asking about Early Start Kindergarten funding.</p> <p>If you need a free interpreter, you can ask for one.</p>	
Webinar 1	
<p>Webinar 1– Overview of transition to school and what you need to do</p>	
<p>1. Welcome</p>	<p>Show Slide 1 – Title</p> <p>Welcome to all the families from our community to the first of our 4 videos for families with young children starting school soon.</p> <p>Show Slide 2 – Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>We would like to begin by remembering the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay our deepest respects to the elders of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.</p> <p>My name is xxxxxx and I am the Community Liaison Worker at Foundation House, supporting the xxxxxx community.</p> <hr/> <p>Show Slide 3 Webinars for families & FH phone number</p> <p>The Victorian Department of Education and Foundation House want to support families so that all our children can make a positive start to school. There are four separate videos covering these topics:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helping our children to prepare to go to school 2. What I can do over the holiday period to prepare my child for school 3. Preparing for the first day of school 4. Being partners with our school <p>If you have any questions please get in touch with us by ringing Foundation House on 9389 8900. We will find out the correct answer for you and then include your question in the next recording.</p> <p>Today’s webinar is about what families can do to help children have a good start to school. I’m here today with xxxxx who is an auntie auntie of a child starting school next year - welcome XXXX !</p> <p>Community Member: Hello and thanks for having me.</p>
<p>2. Confusing Words</p>	<p>Show Slide with Prep Foundation & Kinder</p> <p>Community Worker: XXXX , what do you think are the questions that families would like to know to be able to help children starting in Prep or Foundation next year?</p> <p>Community Member: Well, that’s the first question, XXXX . What is the difference between the words Prep and Foundation please? It’s very confusing. And what is kinder?</p> <p>Community Worker: Good question XXXX . Prep and Foundation mean the same thing. Some schools use the word Prep, and some say Foundation. Prep, or Foundation, is the first year of going to a primary school in Victoria. Children usually go to primary school for 7 years followed by six years at a secondary school.</p> <p>Kinder, or Kindergarten, is for all children who turned four years old by 30th of April the year before they go to school. Kinder is very important – children who have been to Kinder have been shown to be more successful in their education. And it’s a lot of fun for children and their families. You will be welcome to spend time in the kinder where you can learn about everything they are doing. Please make sure all the 4 year old children you know are going to Kinder, even if only for the last few weeks of the year.</p> <p>Early Start Kinder is a 15 hour a week kindergarten program for three-year-old children that is especially good for children in our community where the child or parent/carer is from a refugee or asylum seeking background. This is for children who are three and it means they can go to Kinder in the year before their 4 year old Kinder year. So they have two years of learning in kinder. This means the teachers can get to know you and your family very well. This is new for families of refugee background from 2021. Please make sure all families of three year old children ask community workers and Maternal & Child Health Nurses about Early Start Kindergarten.</p>

<p>3. Is my child old enough?</p>	<p>Show slide 5 'Is my child old enough to start school?'</p> <p>Community Member: How old is a child when they start school in Victoria?</p> <p>Community Worker: In Victoria, your child can start school if they turn 5 years old by 30th April. If the family decides the child is not yet ready for school, they can wait until the following year.</p>
<p>4. Is my child ready?</p>	<p>Show slide 6 'Is my child ready to start school?'</p> <p>Community Member: How will we know if my nephew is ready to start school?</p> <p>Community Worker: Your Kindergarten teacher is a good person to ask about this. Most families think about whether their child is ready to learn academically, but there are many factors to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do they interact positively with others – with children and with adults? • How well are they beginning to develop the skills to regulate and talk about their feelings and emotions? • How do they cope when left by themselves with trusted adults? • How well will they be able to spend a whole day at school with or without support? • Do they have good fine motor skills (like being able to work with small things) and gross motor skills (like balancing, jumping)? <p>It is important to have several conversations with your child’s kinder teacher about this. Kinders can book an interpreter, so please ask for one as this is a very important conversation and a very big decision for your child.</p> <p>Most children are ready to start school after one year of 4-year-old kindergarten. All children are different, even those of similar ages, but they all have a range of skills and abilities that form the basis for further learning Schools will be ready to support your child. School teachers can work with your child at make sure that the teaching and learning suit their needs.</p> <p>There are other people that you could get advice from such as your family and friends, community leaders, playgroup leaders, community hub staff, your doctor, the Maternal & Child Health Nurse and settlement workers</p>
<p>5. How do I enrol my child at school?</p>	<p>Show slide 7 'How do I enrol my child at school?'</p> <p>Community Member: How do I find out about the different types of schools in Victoria?</p> <p>Community Worker: There are different type of schools in Victoria. It is important to choose a school that suits your family, because you will be working together for many years. There is a government school close to where you live. There are also independent schools and Catholic schools, and there are schools that specialise in teaching children living with a disability or with special needs. It’s a good idea to ask lots of people about the different schools to find the best one for your family.</p> <p>Community Member: How do I enrol my child at school?</p>

	<p>Community Worker: A good person to talk to about this is the Kinder teacher, who will know about the local schools.</p> <p>As soon as you can, it's good to visit the school. Go to the school or ring them to talk about your child. If it is a Government school closest to your house, they will have a place for your child.</p> <p>When you visit the school, there might be some staff who speak our language. Sometimes they are called the Multicultural Education Aide or Family Liaison Worker. They can be very helpful with all your questions.</p> <p>Schools can get Interpreters for you too so always ask for one.</p> <p>To enrol your child, the school will ask you to fill in some forms. Take some official papers that show where you live and the age of your child. To help with enrolment, ask the school for an interpreter or a worker who speaks our language.</p>
<p>6. Transition activities run by the kinder and the school</p>	<p>Show slide 8 'Transition activities run by the kinder & the school'</p> <p>Community Member: Will we be able to go to the school and meet the teachers and other families before school starts?</p> <p>Community Worker: Your school and kinder teachers will work together with you to prepare your child to be ready for school next year.</p> <p>Prep teachers will be visiting children at kindergartens. Your kindergarten teacher will prepare a document called a transition statement about your child so that the school teachers can get to know your child and plan the best programs to support them.</p> <p>When it is getting close to the end of the year, there will be opportunities for you and your child to go to the school and meet with the teachers and other students and their families. These sessions are called 'Transition Sessions'. Sometimes these sessions might be run as on-line meetings.</p> <p>The children might do some activities in the classroom, like listening to a story and drawing a picture, and you might be able to meet with the other parents. Some schools have information sessions for parents during transition sessions, and they will organise interpreters if required.</p> <p>Your child's kinder may also take the children to visit a nearby school. On these visits, the children will do some activities in the classroom and see what it's like to be at school. These visits are great fun, and don't worry – if your child visits a school with their kinder they can still go to the school you have chosen, even if it is not the same one.</p> <p>At the Transition sessions, find out what time your child starts on the first day and where to take them.</p>

	<p>We will be talking more about the first day of school in our Webinar 3.</p>
<p>7. Talk to your child about school</p>	<p>Show slide 'Talk to your child about school'</p> <p>Community Member: My nephew is a bit worried about starting school. What can I do to help?</p> <p>Community Worker: Starting school is such an exciting time, but it also means lots of change for your child and your family.</p> <p>Talk to your child about school and let them talk about any concerns they have, to make the transition easier.</p> <p>Tell them about the structure of their school day (learn, eat and play, learn, eat and play, learn, pick up, go home). This helps them become familiar with the school routine and comfortable with what they can expect each day.</p> <p>Reassure them that the teacher will remind them of what to do and that they can ask the teacher questions, including when to go to the toilet. The teacher will help them to feel happy. Make sure your children know that school is a fun place where they can learn and make lots of new friends.</p> <hr/> <p>Show slide 'I am starting school Calendar'</p> <p>Community Member: That is a lot of things to remember to tell my child!</p> <p>We can give you a copy of this "I am starting school" Calendar to have in your home. You can put it in a place where you can all see it. The link is on the website.</p> <p>Do one of the activities on the '<i>I am starting school</i>' calendar each day. This is a great way to begin building your child's independence. Help your child to become independent with dressing themselves and going to the toilet, as well as washing their hands and eating.</p> <p>Do some activities with your child to help them be ready for school (telling stories, singing songs, letting them help you with jobs around the house, talking to other children). Show your child where the school is and talk about how you will get there.</p> <p>Reassure your child that you or someone from your family will be there to pick them up every day after school (or at the end of 'after-care'). Help them feel safe and happy to say goodbye each morning. Remind them that the teachers at school will help and look after them.</p>

	<p>Show slide ‘Other resources in our language’</p> <p>(Explain these resources and how to access them)</p>
Key Messages	<p>Community Member: Thank you XXXX , this has been very informative. Would you mind just going over the main points so I can make sure I have all the information I need?</p> <p>Community Worker: Sure,XXXX ! The main points to remember are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your kinder teacher about your child starting school • Talk to the school you would like your child to go to • Go to the Transition Sessions run by the school • Do some activities with your child to help them be ready for school (telling stories, dressing, toileting, eating) • Talk to your child about school to help them feel comfortable <p>Our next webinar will be about supporting your child over the holidays and getting ready for school so look out for that.</p>

<p>SCRIPT for Webinar 2</p> <p>Supporting my child over the holidays and getting ready for school</p>	
Intro	<p>Show Slide 1 – Title Supporting my child over the holidays and getting ready for school</p> <p>Welcome to all the families from our community to the second of four videos for families with young children starting school soon.</p>
Acknowledgement, Welcome & Overview	<p>Show Slide 2 – Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>We would like to begin by remembering the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay our deepest respects to the elders of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.</p> <p>My name is xxxxxx and I am the Community Liaison Worker at Foundation House, supporting the xxxxxx community.</p> <p>I am here today with XXXX, a parent/carer of a child starting school next year. Welcome XXXX!</p> <p>Community Member: Hello. I am happy to be here.</p>
	<p>Show Slide 3 Webinars for families & FH phone number</p> <p>The Victorian Department of Education and Foundation House want to support families so all children can make a positive start to school. This webinar explains what parents/carers can do over the holidays to prepare their child for school.</p> <p>Please call Foundation House on 9389 8900 with your questions about supporting your child to be prepared for school. Answers will be included in the next webinar.</p>

<p>Who can help?</p>	<p>Show Slide 3 Who can help?</p> <p>Community Worker: XXXX, what are common questions families ask about how to help our children over the holidays?</p> <p>Community Member: Well, we will have lots of questions, especially if this is the first of our children to start school. My first question is, who are the best people to speak to and ask questions about preparing my child for school during the holidays?</p> <p>Community Worker: Good question XXXX. Your child’s kindergarten teacher is very helpful. The teacher can have a conversation with you the parents and share ideas. Please ask the teacher to book an interpreter if you wish.</p> <p>You can also get advice from other parents, your family, friends, community leaders, religious leaders <i>such as your Pastor</i>, playgroup leaders, community hub staff, your doctor, the Maternal & Child Health Nurse and settlement workers.</p>
<p>Finishing Kinder well</p>	<p>Show slide ‘Finishing Kinder well’</p> <p>Community Member: How can I help my child to finish Kinder well?</p> <p>Community Worker: Attend the transition activities organised by the school and kindergarten. You will learn ideas from the kindergarten and school teachers for you to enjoy at home and prepare your child for school.</p>
<p>What can we do over the holidays?</p>	<p>Show Slide 4 – What can we do to help children over the Summer holidays?</p> <p>Community Member: What can we do to help children over the Summer holidays?</p> <p>Community Worker Over the holidays children will be having fun but are also learning. Children begin learning even before they are born. Children learn from everything they see, hear and experience. Children learn when playing. A child’s parents and family are a child’s first teacher and are in a great position to support their learning.</p> <p>Encourage your child to participate in family activities. Talk about the activities with your child in the language or languages that you know best.</p> <p>Arrange time for your child to play with other children also attending your child’s school next year. Your child will be more prepared for school by knowing other children at their school when starting Prep or Foundation.</p>
<p>Talk to your child about school</p>	<p>Show slide 5 ‘Talk to your child about school’</p> <p>Community Member: How can I help my child to start school?</p> <p>Community Worker: Starting school is an exciting time, but also a time of change for your child and family.</p>

	<p>Talk to your child about school. Listen to their questions and concerns and answer them in a positive way.</p> <p>Tell your child about how their day may be. For example, there will be time sitting on the floor in a big group and time playing outside with children of different ages. Talk to your child about how you will travel to and from school, and visit the school in the holidays.</p> <p>Reassure your child that you or a family member will meet the child at the same location, for example the front gate, every day when finishing school or ‘after-care’. Help your child feel safe and happy to say goodbye each morning. Remind your child that teachers will be caring and are there to help them.</p> <p>Reassure your child that the teacher will remind them when it is time to sit, play and eat. Children can ask the teacher questions including, when can I go to the toilet? The teacher will help them to feel happy. Please tell your child that school is a fun and safe place where they learn and make lots of new friends.</p> <p>Parents/carers are encouraged to learn the names of the teachers caring for your child. Teach your child the teachers’ name. Teach your child some helpful English sentences such as “My name is...” or “Will you please help me?”</p> <p>Kindergarten and school teachers communicate about the Prep or Foundation children. Kindergarten teachers have written a Transition Statement about your child for the school. The school will prepare a learning environment to suit your child’s needs.</p>
	<p>Show slide 6 ‘I am starting school Calendar’</p> <p>Community Member: That is a lot of things to remember to tell my child!</p> <p>To help, we can give you a free calendar activity called “<i>I am starting school</i>’.</p> <p>The calendar can be displayed in your home on the refrigerator or wall in a place seen by the whole family.</p> <p>Each day please practice one activity from ‘<i>I am starting school</i>’.</p> <p>These activities build your child’s independence including eating and dressing. Also, practice going to the toilet, shutting the toilet door and washing their hands.</p> <p>‘<i>I am starting school</i>’ calendar is available for free on the Foundation House website.</p>
	<p>Show Slide 7: Helping school children over the holidays.</p> <p>Community Member How can I help my older children who already attend school?</p> <p>Help older school children to continue read and writing every day. Tell stories and talk together about family activities in the language you know best.</p> <p>Family activities include enjoying the local library, which will be open on most days over the holidays. Ask the librarian for children’s books about starting school.</p>

	<p>Playing outside and enjoying nature at the park helps children wellbeing and physical development and can limit screen time.</p>
	<p>Show Slide 8: Helping young children over the holidays.</p> <p>Community Member How can I help my younger children who are too young for school or kindergarten?</p> <p>Playing with your younger children, doing similar activities, supports learning and fun, such as telling stories, singing songs, letting them help you with home tasks like putting the washing on the line and having conversations with family members. Talk to your children while doing the activities and ask for their thoughts about the tasks. It is good to read to children or talk about the pictures in books in the language that you know best.</p> <p>Enrol your child in playgroup and kindergarten. Playgroups welcome families with children 0-5 years for play, fun and socialising. Facilitated playgroups are often free and start again when school returns. Parent run playgroups often meet during the holidays and may have a small fee.</p> <p>A child can attend kindergarten when they are 3 and 4 years old. At kindergarten your child will make friends, play and develop important skills to help prepare them for school. Kindergarten for 3 and 4-year-old children benefits their education, health and wellbeing as a child and as an adult. Kindergarten helps children develop strong social and emotional skills. Children have fun while they learn through play.</p> <p>Families from a refugee background receive FREE 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten through a program called Early Start Kindergarten.</p> <p>Enrol in playgroup and kindergarten by asking your local Council, your family and friends, community leaders, religious leaders <i>such as your Pastor</i>, playgroup leaders, community hub staff, your doctor, the Maternal & Child Health Nurse and settlement workers.</p>
<p>Key Messages</p>	<p>Community Member: Thank you XXXX, this has been very informative. Could you please remind me of the important information I need?</p> <p>Community Worker: Yes, XXXX! The important parts to remember are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You and your child attend Transition events offered by the school and kindergarten and ask questions if you are unsure • Enjoy activities with your children over the holidays at home and in places like the park and practice activities that will prepare your child for the school year • Talk to your child about school and listen to their questions and comments to help them feel comfortable • Enrol young children in playgroup, 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten <p>Please watch the next webinar about preparing for the first day of school!</p>

SCRIPT for Webinar 3	
Preparing for the first day of school	
Acknowledgement, Welcome & Overview	<p>Show Slide 1 – Title</p> <p>Welcome to all the families from our community to the third of our four videos for families with young children starting school.</p>
	<p>Show Slide 2 – Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>We would like to begin by remembering the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay our deepest respects to the elders of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.</p> <p>My name is xxxxxx and I am the Community Liaison Worker at Foundation House, supporting the xxxxxx community. I am here today with XXXX who is a parent/carer of a child starting school next year. Welcome XXXX !</p> <p>Community Member: Hello and thank you for inviting me.</p>
	<p>Show Slide 3 Webinars for families & FH phone number</p> <p>The Victorian Department of Education and Foundation House want to support families so all children can make a positive start to school. This webinar explains what parents/carers can do to prepare their child for the first day of school.</p> <p>Please call Foundation House on 9389 8900 with your questions about supporting your child to be prepared for school. Answers will be included in the next webinar.</p>
Two things	<p>Show Slide 4 – What can we do to help children prepare for the first day of school?</p> <p>Community Member: What can we do to help children prepare for the first day of school?</p> <p>Community Worker</p> <p>There are two main ways you can help your child be ready for the first days of school</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talking to your child about school 2. Help your child be in a routine that helps during the first weeks of school
Talk to your child about school (with 'I am starting school calendar' on slide)	<p>Tell your child about how their school day may be structured. For example, there will be times when the whole class will be together sitting on the floor and times when children will work with a small number of other children. There will be recess and lunch breaks when there will be time to play outside with children of different ages.</p> <p>Show your child the school location and talk to your child about how you will travel to and from school. Then practice getting to school in the way they normally would, for example, walking, riding a bike, catching a bus or driving to the school.</p> <p>Reassure your child that the teacher will remind them when they need to do things during the day and that teachers are very happy to answer their questions, for</p>

	<p>instance, when can I go to the toilet? Teachers will help your child to settle in and to be happy at school. School is a place that they can learn, have fun and will meet new friends.</p> <p>Show Slide 6: A routine helps with the first weeks of school</p> <p>Community Member How do I help my child be in a routine for the first weeks of school?</p> <p>Routines help children and the whole family feel safe.</p> <p>What time will your child need to wake up each day to get ready for school?</p> <p>One or two weeks before starting school, encourage the whole family to wake up at that time. Eat lunch around the same time each day and practise eating lunch from a lunch box. Practise unwrapping their food and caring for their belongings such as drink bottles. Let them know that we don't share food or drink with others at school.</p> <p>Allow the children to wear their school uniform for a few days including the school hat so that they are used to wearing it. Teach them to put their things back in their school bag when no longer needed, such as their jumper or jacket and hat. Make sure your children know how to wash their hands, using soap after going to the toilet.</p> <p>Most children starting school find it very tiring. Going to bed at the same time each night will help them have energy. For example, if your child wakes for school at 6 am and needs approximately 10 hours sleep per night, your child should be in bed before 8pm.</p> <p>Help your child have a sense of belonging and routine by having a special place in the home to put their school clothes, bag, shoes and hat. Teaching children how to use their special space will help their routine.</p>
<p>Other children who are too young for school?</p>	<p>Show Slide 7: Helping other children who are too young for school</p> <p>Community Member What about my other children who are too young for school?</p> <p>When their siblings start school, it brings change for younger children. They may miss playing with older children. Or they may enjoy a time of quiet.</p> <p>Playgroups welcome families with children 0-5 years for play, fun and socialising. Facilitated playgroups are often free and start again when school returns. Parent-run playgroups may meet during the holidays and may have a small fee.</p> <p>Kindergarten for 3 and 4-year-old children benefits their education, health and wellbeing as a child and as an adult. Kindergarten helps children develop strong social and emotional skills. Children have fun while they learn through play.</p> <p>Families from a refugee background receive FREE 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten through a program called Early Start Kindergarten.</p>

	Enrol your child in playgroup and kindergarten by asking your local Council, your family and friends, community leaders, religious leaders such as your Pastor, playgroup leaders, community hub staff, your doctor, the Maternal & Child Health Nurse and settlement workers.
Key Messages	<p>Slide 8 – Key messages</p> <p>Community Member: Thank you XXXX, this has been very informative. Could you please remind me of the important information I need?</p> <p>Community Worker: Yes, XXXX! The important parts to remember are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your child about school, especially what to expect in the first few days • Help your whole family to be in a routine including times to sleep and eat • Enrol young children in playgroup, 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten <p>Please watch our next webinar about families being a partner with school.</p>

SCRIPT for Webinar 4	
Being partners with your school	
1 Welcome Slide 1	Show Slide 1: Being partners with your school Welcome to all the families from our community to the last of our four videos for families with young children starting school.
2. Acknowledgement, Welcome & Overview Slides 2 & 3	Show Slide 2: Acknowledgement of Country We remember the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay our deepest respects to the elders of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities. My name is xxxxxx and I am the Community Liaison Worker at Foundation House, supporting the xxxxxx community. I am here today with XXXX who is a parent/carer of a child who started school this year. Welcome XXXX ! Community Member: Hello and thank you for inviting me.
	Show Slide 3: Webinars for families & FH phone number The Victorian Department of Education and Training and Foundation House want to support families so all children can make a positive start to school. This webinar explains why it is so important to build a strong partnership and what parents/carers can do to build this with their school. Please call Foundation House on 9389 8900 for any questions about supporting your child to be prepared for school.
3.	Show Slide 4: Remember: 3 and 4 year old Kinder & Playgroup

<p>Remember: Kinder for 3 and 4 year old children and playgroup</p> <p>Slide 4</p>	<p>Before we talk about building a strong partnership with your school, we want to remind you about the important changes to Kinder for children who are too young for school.</p> <p>From 2021, three-year-old children from a refugee or asylum seeker background can receive 15 hours per week of FREE kindergarten through a grant called Early Start Kindergarten. Four-year-old children from a refugee or asylum seeker background can access 15 hours per week of free kindergarten through the Early Start Kindergarten Extension Grant or Kindergarten Fee Subsidy.</p> <p>Early Start Kindergarten is available in all kindergarten programs delivered by a qualified teacher. You can enrol your child by contacting a kindergarten near you and asking to access an Early Start Kindergarten grant.</p> <p>Kindergartens have access to a free telephone interpreting service if you require an interpreter.</p> <p>Kindergartens, your local Department of Education and Training office, local council and your Maternal and Child Health nurse are required to support your participation in kindergarten. You can contact them for assistance in accessing a free 15-hour per week kindergarten program through Early Start Kindergarten.</p> <p>Kindergarten for 3 and 4-year-old children has a positive impact on their education, health and wellbeing as a child and these benefits can flow through to their adult life. Kindergarten helps children develop strong social and emotional skills. Children have fun while they learn through play.</p> <p>And remember Playgroups are important for parents and children from birth to school too. Kindergarten and Playgroups are good places for parents and carers to meet new friends, find out information and learn about raising children in Australia.</p> <p>Many people can give you information about enrolling your child in Playgroup and kindergarten; ask your local Council, family and friends, community leaders, religious leaders <i>such as your Pastor</i>, playgroup leaders, community hub staff, your doctor, Maternal & Child Health Nurses and settlement workers.</p>
<p>4. Children do better when families are partners with school</p> <p>Slide 5</p>	<p>Show Slide 5 – Children do better when families are partners with the school</p> <p>Community Member: Why is it important for me to be partners with my child’s school?</p> <p>Community Worker There is lots of evidence to show that children do better with their learning and wellbeing when their parents and families are partners with the school.</p> <p>In Australia, school staff want and expect to be partners with families to ensure each child is supported throughout their learning journey. This might be different from other cultures in the world. In Australia, schools are seen as part of the community where students, parents, carers, families, teachers and the community, work as a team to support the child’s learning.</p>

<p>5</p> <p>How can I become partners with our school?</p> <p>Slide 6 & 7</p>	<p>Show slide 6 – How can I become partners with our school?</p> <p>Community Member: Ok, that’s good to know. So, what can I do to become partners with the school?</p> <p>Community Worker: There are lots of ways! Here are some of them.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>1. Talk to the school staff</p> <p>Staff at your child’s school will want to meet and talk with you and your child. This includes the Principal, the teachers and other support staff. There will be formal times set up to meet but also please say a friendly ‘Hi’ if you see them around the school.</p> <p>Your school may have a Multicultural Education Aide or MEA, who speaks your language. Their job is to support families. They can help you with school enrolment activities, joining in school events, digital literacy, reading and understanding notices. They can explain things about the school, and can help with any questions you may have. They can also help you speak to the school staff.</p> <p>Your school must also offer interpreting and translation services if you have limited or no English language skills. This is free to families of children enrolled in government schools to help with parent teacher meetings.</p> <p>2. Go to events at school</p> <p>There will be lots of regular events such as weekly School Assembly and there will be special family events. You can go to watch, to join in or to help. Some parents might feel shy about going to school events, but we know it is very helpful for your children if you participate and show interest in the school activities.</p> <p>The school will send home information about events in notices and newsletters. It is important to read this information. Where possible your school should offer translated information – sometimes you might need someone to help you, such as family, friends, other parents at the school or school staff such as a Multicultural Education Aide.</p> <p>Many schools have an app or social media page where they post information, which is very useful to have on your phone. Please tell your child’s teacher the best way for you to receive information (by text messages, phone calls, from the Multicultural Education Aide, with an interpreter etc)</p> <p>3. Help at the school</p> <p>Many schools invite parents to help at the school. This can be with everyday learning in the classroom (such as helping to listen to children read books in the morning).</p> <p>Sometimes there are special activities that families can help with, such as incursions (when someone comes to the school to do a special activity with the students) or excursions (when the students go somewhere to do a</p>
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special activity). If you feel comfortable, you could volunteer for one of these activities. The teachers will help you learn how to help.

4. Support your child at home

Some schools run information sessions for parents about supporting your child with their learning at home. You can ask your child's teacher for ideas about how to do this too. Helpful ideas include:

- Establish a regular routine for bedtime and breakfast
- Organise for the school day, with clean school clothes, a lunchbox, sun hat and school bag
- Arrive on time for school pick ups and drop offs
- Attend school every day unless your child is sick
- Support your child in activities that encourage literacy and numeracy.

Speak to your child in the languages that you know best, telling stories and chatting to each other.

You are your child's first and best teacher, so if you can help them at home they will do even better at school!

5. Talk to your child about school

It is important to talk to your child about school, so you know what is happening and how they are going. This will help you to find out about the things that they are doing well and enjoying and if there are any things they are having trouble with. If you or your child have any concerns or questions, you should always speak to your child's teacher. They are there to help and they want to support you!

Show Slide 7: Teachers want to be partners with you

Community Member: That all sounds great, but I'm nervous about going to the school and speaking to the teacher. What if they don't want to speak to me or we can't understand each other?

Community worker: This is completely understandable but remember that teachers want to be partners with you. They want to help, and they want your child to do well. Your child's teacher will be working closely with your child as their learning journey begins. It is important that you work together to make sure your child has the best start to school. Remember, it is the teacher's job to support you and your child. If you have a concern, they can only help if they know about it.

Teachers have access to interpreters, either over the phone or in person. At the beginning of the year, it is helpful to tell your child's teacher that an interpreter will be needed, so they can be ready. When you go to the school it can be helpful to show a card to the school office staff which is written in English with your child's name, class, teacher and the language you speak.

There will be some special times set up for you to speak with your child's teacher, such as Parent-Teacher meetings. If you only need a quick conversation, you might be able to talk when you drop off or pick up your child from school. If you need a longer conversation, ask for a time that suits you both. Tell the teacher before the

	<p>time if an interpreter is needed. It is best not to just arrive at school during the day to speak to the teacher when they are busy teaching the class.</p> <p>If there is a Multicultural Education Aide or MEA who speaks your language, they will also help with everyday communication to speak to the teachers.</p>
<p>6. Connect with other families at the school</p> <p>Slide 8</p>	<p>Show Slide 8: Connect with other families at the school</p> <p>Community Member: What about other families at the school? Can they help me too?</p> <p>Community Worker: Good idea! Other families at the school are a big help. You can help each other in many ways, like hearing about & understanding things that are happening at school. They might also be able to help in other situations, such as someone to share picking up children from school. Connecting with other families might also mean that you can catch up with them outside of school so your children can play together.</p>
<p>7. Key Messages</p> <p>Slide 9</p>	<p>Slide 9 – Key messages</p> <p>Community Member: Thank you XXXX, this has been very informative. Could you please remind me of the important information I need?</p> <p>Community Worker: Yes, XXXX! The important parts to remember are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children do better at school when their families are partners • There are many ways to partner with the school – making time to speak with the school staff; attending events, volunteering to help, learning how to support your child’s learning at home, speaking to your child about what is happening at school • There are formal times to speak to teachers, and they sometimes have time to talk informally • Teachers want to be partners with you • Get connected to other families at the school. <p>We wish you and your family well as your child begins at school this year, and encourage you to become partners with the school</p>