



Tips on Preparing Your Child for School:

- ✓ Our Primary day is very busy so it is important that children have the proper amount of sleep. If your child does not yet have a regular bedtime, now is the time to start one.
- ✓ Have your child practise dressing independently. This becomes very important when the cold weather comes. The children feel a lot better about themselves if they can dress on their own and not have to wait for someone else to do it for them.
- ✓ Be sure your child knows how to properly use the washroom independently. This includes being able to wash their hands properly and, for boys, it means knowing what a urinal is and how to use one.
- ✓ Develop an interest in books and reading by giving books as a gift for special occasions and encourage other family members to do the same.
- ✓ Reading to your child is very important and is encouraged daily. Read a variety of books both fiction and nonfiction. Do not worry if your child has a favourite book that he/she wants read repeatedly; this kind of repetition is fine.
- ✓ Access the library regularly, letting your child select books of interest to him/her.
- ✓ Encourage your child to print his/her name. Names are spelled with a capital letter at the beginning and all other letters lower case (**Jennifer** not JENNIFER). Seeing their name printed in this way helps them recognize things that have their names on them.
- ✓ Encourage your child to be creative, allowing him/her to use crayons, markers, scissors, and glue. It is also important for developing fine motor control.
- ✓ Developing good social skills is a very important part of the primary program. If your child has difficulty getting along with others or has not yet had much opportunity to socialize with children of the same age, please be encouraged to make playing with other children a part of your child's routine.
- ✓ Take your child on outings so that he/she will get to know his/her neighbourhood and community. These activities will increase your child's knowledge and language about the world around him/her.
- ✓ If your child has a speech, physical or other difficulty that you are concerned about, be sure and discuss the matter with your family doctor as soon as possible. Let the school know about your concerns so we can lend our support.