

# Home Tutor Scheme

## Lesson Plan

### Topic: STARTING SCHOOL



everyone's family

Introduction	Warm-up questions
I. Educational System in NSW	Vocabulary Activities
II. Kindergarten Enrollment	Vocabulary Structures Sample Dialogue
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### Warm-up questions

1. How many years did you attend school in your country?
2. Do you remember the first days you were in school?
3. How old were you when you started school? Do you know the right age for children to start school in NSW?
4. What was the classroom like in your country? Do the students sit in rows or in a circle?
5. Do you know the primary school close to you? Which primary schools do your children or your friends' children attend? Are they public or private schools?
6. So far as you know, what are the differences between the educational system in your country and the one in NSW?

### I. Educational System in NSW

#### Vocabulary

Early childhood: long day care/family care/pre-school

School education:

*Kindergarten (K)*

*Primary school (year 1-6)*

*High school (year 7-12)*

*TAFE:* (Technical and Further Education): Year 11 and Year 12 students can take Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses through TAFE. The work skills and experience can give them a head start in their career that does not need a university degree. Typically, a TAFE course takes two years of study.

*University:* higher education to obtain a degree or post-graduate qualifications. Typically, a university course takes three or four years of study.

Public/private school

Enrol (enrolment)

Uniform

Canteen

Classroom

Subject

After school care

**Activity 1:** Locate the local and surrounding primary schools on the map. You'll need to get the page of your student's area from the street directory. It's also a good opportunity to practice directions and distance, eg. *How far is the school? How long does it take to walk to the school? How can you get there?*

**Activity 2:** Compare the primary school education in NSW with the one in your student's country of origin. You can start with what your student is familiar with, ie primary school education in the student's country.

Write down the answers to the following questions, then proceed to what happens here in NSW.

1. How many years do children spend in primary school?
2. Do you pay for children's primary school education?
3. How many children are there in a classroom?
4. What are the major subjects taught/children's activities in school?
5. Is there one teacher teaching all subjects, or different teachers teaching different subjects?
6. Do children have to take lunch boxes?
7. Do children have to wear uniforms?
8. What are the school hours?
9. Is there after school care available?
10. What do children usually do after school?

	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>NSW</b>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

### Activity 3: Presentation

Ask your student to talk about the primary school education in his/her home country, then about that in NSW. Note: Allow enough time for your student to go over the notes.

Ask your student to talk about an experience they remember from school. If they did not attend school, maybe an experience of their children. Also allow time for preparation.

### Kindergarten Enrolment

#### Vocabulary

suburb  
document  
birth certificate  
vaccination/immunization record  
assessment

Brainstorming: What information will the school need to enrol your child?

*Write down the student's answers and ask the student to give relevant information.*

e.g. if the student answers "my address", you ask the question "What's your address" or "Which suburb do you live in?"

#### Structures

Make enquiry (parent)	I want/would like to enroll my son in your school I want/would like some information about enrolling my son in your school	
Check eligibility (school)	Ok, can you tell me which suburb do you live in?/ what's your address? What's your son's date of birth? Was your son born in Australia?	
Give information (parent)	I live in ... My son was born on ... He was born in ...	
Confirm eligibility (school)	Yes. He can start Kindy next year.  be enrolled now.	Sorry, he has to be enrolled in 2011. ... is not our area. we've to prioritize children in our local area, but I can put your son in our waiting list.
Make further enquiry (parent)	<b>What can I do next?</b>	
Give instructions (school)	Well, you'll need to <b>fill in the enrollment form</b> . It's available at our office. You'll need to bring the completed form along with your child's <b>birth certificate</b> (or <b>passport</b> if born overseas) and <b>vaccination record</b> for enrollment	
Confirm information (parent)	Ok, <b>so</b> I can get the form from your office. I need also to bring my son's birth certificate and vaccination record to your office. <b>Is it right?</b>	
Give confirmation (school)	Yes. You can either fill in the form at our office or take it home.	

### Sample dialogue

**Parent:** Hi, I would like to enroll my son in your school please.

**School:** Ok. May I ask which suburb you live in?

**P:** I live in Ashfield.

**S:** That's fine. Now what's your son's date of birth?

**P:** He was born on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

**S:** Let me see.. Hmm, he's turning 5 in May next year. Yes, he can start Kindy next year.

**P:** That's great. What can I do next?

**S:** Well, you'll need to fill in the enrollment form. It's available at our office. Once you complete the form, bring it back to our office together with your son's birth certificate and vaccination record.

**P:** Ok. So first I get the enrollment form from your office. Then I bring the completed form and my son's birth certificate and vaccination record to you.

**S:** Yes. You can also fill in the form at our office.

**P:** That's great. Do I have to make an appointment for that?

**S:** No. Our office is open 9am to 3pm, but it's better for you to come between 9:30am and 2:30pm to avoid the busy times when children start and finish school.

**P:** Great, i'll drop in between 9:30 and 2:30 then. Thank you very much.

**S:** You're welcome, bye.

### **Getting prepared**

While it's a big step for children starting school, it can also be a big challenge for parents from a different culture to help their children's transition to school. So it's equally important for parents to be prepared before Kindergarten starts.

### Conversation topics

How can you learn more information about your child's school?

- talk with the school staff
- talk with other parents like neighbors and friends
- school orientation program
- school website
- local community paper

What does the school orientation program provide? Why is it important?

What is important for parents to do?

- Enrol your child before the new school year starts
- Attend the school orientation/
- Ask for a tour of the school if you missed the school orientation program, especially to show your child the toilet and bubblers and to meet the teachers.
- Find out what day and time your child will start school.
- Find out about the school uniform/hat/shoes/library bag
- Label all your child's belongings

What service is available if you're concerned about your child's English?

English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. Encourage your student to ring the school to get more information. It's also important to meet the ESL teachers.

Lunch box ideas

Talk about nutritional and healthy food parents can pack for their children's lunches.