Play is more than fun. In play, children use all their senses to discover the way things feel and move. When children have many chances to play, they learn about themselves and others and they learn how things work.

Play is a powerful way to learn. It builds children’s curiosity and self-esteem. In the imaginary world of play, children can experiment without fear of failure.

Through interactions with friends, family and other people and the exploration of interesting objects, children develop the skills they need to do well in school.

The best way to exercise children’s creative minds is to listen to them. Answer their questions, encourage their curiosity and admire the things they make. When given the chance to explore, wonder and experience success, children become active and confident learners.
Parents are teachers too:
Talk, sing, and listen to your child

Your child watches and learns from you. Because you are so special, your child wants to be like you.

Your child learns language by doing. Everyday moments – eating, dressing, going to the market – are times to enjoy your relationship, talk together and help your child learn.

Teach your child songs you knew as a child. Sing them together. When you do, you help her feel good about herself and want to learn more.

Help your child listen to sounds, point out the difference between sounds, have her imitate the sounds she hears. Help your child name objects and arrange words into meaningful sentences. Children's curiosity leads to many questions:

an endless stream of whys and hows as they ask for information or sometimes just for the fun of conversation. Thoughtful answers help to broaden children's knowledge, feed their curiosity and teach them to think clearly.

Practise asking your child lots of why, when and how questions. Children love to use their imaginations when answering simple questions.

Children develop according to the way they are treated. They become confident when others recognize their increasing skills. They learn to trust when they can count on you and others to understand them.
Learning together to get ready for school

Your child’s school is beginning a new and exciting programme called ‘Getting Ready for School’.

In this programme, older children will help preschool children get ready through lots of fun and interesting games and activities. The older children also learn as they help the younger ones.

Through books, stories and puppets, children will learn about letters and words. Knowing that letters stand for words is the first step in learning to read.

Young children will learn about their feelings and how to get along with others.

They will learn about color, size and shape and how to count objects. Activities such as completing puzzles and sorting help children develop skills needed for writing.

Children will bring home games, books and toys from school to share with their families.

Children learn best when family members show interest and join in games and other activities at home.

Spend time together with your child singing a new song, looking at a book or playing a fun new game she has just learned.

You support children today and tomorrow when you help them take part in the ‘Getting Ready for School’ programme.
Make dreams come true: Send your child to school ‘ready to learn’

Children feel good about themselves when they learn. They want to keep learning more.

By age five, a child’s brain is similar to an adult’s in size and complexity. Increased connections between different parts of the brain help children solve problems more efficiently. When these new thinking skills are combined with rich and varied experiences, children arrive at school eager and ready to learn. To use this new potential, all children need to come to school at the right age.

Children learn best when parents and teachers work together. There are many things you can do. Learn about your child’s school and meet the child’s teacher. Have a positive attitude towards school and show that you enjoy learning.

Your expectations influence how well your child will learn in school. High expectations will inspire them to reach their potential.