

Preparing Our Children for School



Educational Psychology Service
(New Territories West) Section

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Children's Early Development

The brain has its most rapid development during the first few years of life.



4 Major Areas:

- **Physical** (gross and fine motor)
- **Intellectual**
- **Language** (comprehension & expression)
- **Affective & Social** (emotional, social, self-care)

2-3 years old



I can walk up the steps.
I can kick and throw a ball.
I can thread beads.



I can match colors, shapes, sizes.
I can point to my body parts.
I like to play pretend.



I can follow instructions.
I know simple words and can say a few.
I can use short sentences.



I take turns when I play.
I can tell you when I need to go to toilet.
I can put on/ take off my clothes.

3-4 years old



I can catch a ball.
I can pedal a tricycle.
I can color and use scissors.



I know my name, age and gender.
I can classify objects.
I can recite 1-10 and draw a person.



I can retell events in sequence.
I understand some opposite words.
I can recite nursery rhymes.



I am willing to share with others.
I can eat with spoon & pour water from jar.
I can go to the toilet with few accidents.

4-5 years old



I can walk on a balance beam.
I can hop on one leg.
I can draw simple shapes & objects.
I can cut out shapes.



I can read some simple words.
I can find the odd one out.
I can recite 1-20 and count 1-10.



I can tell a story from pictures.
I use complex sentences.
I can solve riddles.
I can converse over the phone.



I can take care of younger children.
I understand what is right or wrong.
I can brush my teeth & clean my nose.
I can use chopsticks.

5-6 years old



I can run fast & make sharp turns.
I can play ball games with a racket.
I can thread shoelaces.
I can copy numbers and words.



I can read many more words.
I can do mazes.
I can tell the time from a clock.
I can count up to 20 & do + & -.

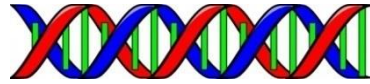


I communicate well.
I am logical in speech.
I can use more complex language.
I can express feelings with words.



I understand fairness in games.
I follow group decisions.
I can do some housework.
I know how to get help in emergencies.

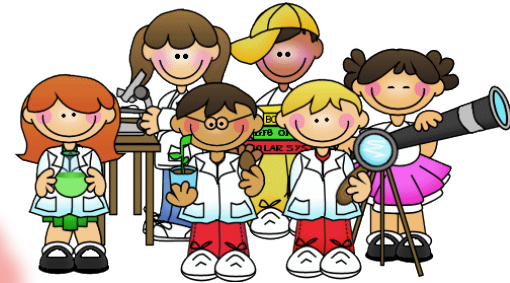
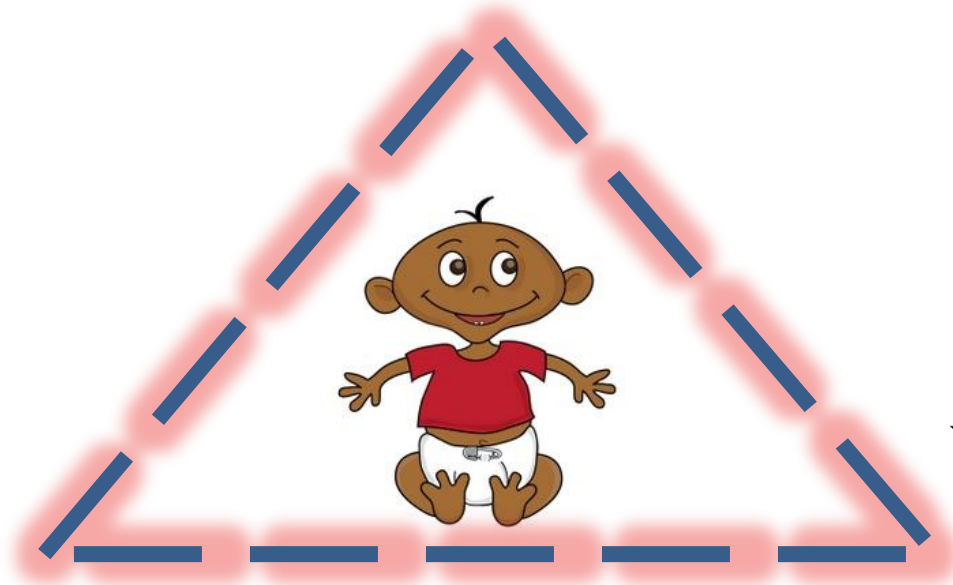
Child's development is influenced by these factors:



Genetic



Nurturing
Environments



Learning
Experiences

Birth

Age 2-3



Age 3-4



Age 4-5



Age 5-6

**Enter
Primary 1**

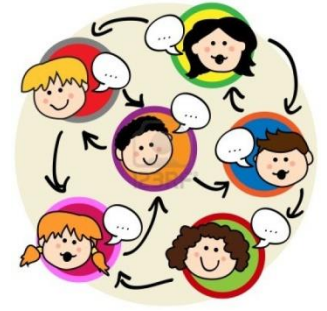
School Expectations in Primary

- By age 5-6
- Already fluent in speech and using complex sentences
- Already able to read and write some words
- Already able to do simple addition and subtraction
- Able to stay seated for lessons and pay attention
- Able to follow class routines and instructions
- Able to socialize, work together and communicate with each other, show appropriate social behavior
- Have good learning motivation and enjoy being with others

Kindergarten→ Smooth transition to Primary

- Introduction to **languages** (Cantonese & English)
- Introduction to **print** (Chinese & English)
- **Multisensory** stimulation
- Physical development (gross & fine **motor**)
- Introduction to **number** concepts
- Introduction to **art, music, creative** play
- **Social** interaction and modeling
- **Cultural** integration
- Many more!

Introduction to Languages



Mini research:

Strong Cantonese Verbal Listening & Expressive Abilities

Better Cantonese Listening

→ Better Chinese reading & writing

Better Cantonese Speaking

→ Better Chinese reading & writing

→ Higher Chinese reading and writing performance

Introduction to Print

Mini research: Attend kindergarten in Hong Kong
→ Higher Chinese reading and writing performance
→ Higher IQ



Sensory Exploration

Fine & Gross motor development



Training of Self-care skills



Introduction to Community / visits



Peer interaction & modeling



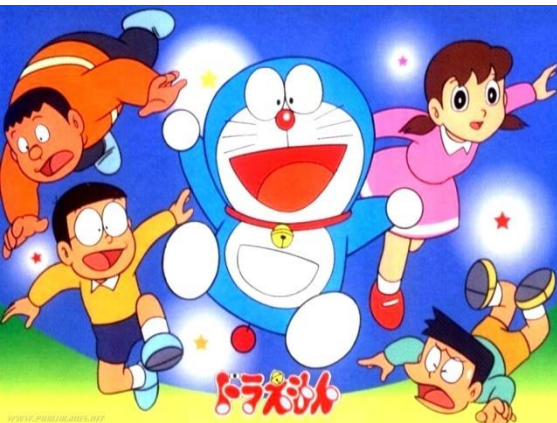
Other Experiences

- Artistic experimentation, musical experience, performances, technological & scientific exploration, value education, confidence building activities, etc...



How can Parents Help?

- Encourage your child to...
 - **speak in Chinese**
 - play with Chinese-speaking children
 - watch Chinese TV channels
 - listen to Chinese songs
 - read Chinese





Mini Research: Out of School Chinese Input

- Extra-curricular reading in Chinese
- Viewing of Cantonese programs
- → Higher Chinese reading and writing scores

- Reading signs, menus, maps, !



珍珠奶茶 (Pearl Milk Tea) menu:

奶茶类 (Milk Tea)		果汁类 (Fruit Juice)		茶类 (Tea)	
香芋奶茶	荔枝奶茶	柳橙汁	西瓜汁	红茶	绿茶
草莓奶茶	木瓜奶茶				

Blend into Culture, Feel at Home



- + By doing so, you give opportunities for your child to **practice** using the language
- + You also show your child you **respect** this language and believe that it is **important** to learn the language
- + Your **attitude** towards the language tells your child how serious he/she should be when studying it

Thank you!