

Submission re children's transition from childcare to school

As a Lower Primary Teacher who moved to sessional kinder 2 yrs ago, then kinder teacher in long day care 1 yr ago, I can see a huge need for childcare workers to understand what children need to succeed at school.

There are physical skills needed such as using scissors (strength in hands)

Social skills – negotiating, empathy (requiring explicit teaching)

Thinking skills – being taught to understand & interpret what is read in books as well as quality examples of language

Emotional skills – perseverance, resilience

These skills do not happen by merely playing with other children in a free play setting. Childcare children often have tendencies to bullying as that is what has worked to date. Free play must be facilitated & guided. Consistency & follow through are essential.

Parents are often inadequately prepared, especially if their children are in full time care & parents are inexperienced at spending quality time with their children. I am often astounded at how little interest intelligent parents show in their child's learning.