

STARTING SCHOOL

with
Rockdale City Library



Welcome! We warmly invite all school starters and their parents or carers to join Rockdale City Library

The Library has lots to offer to families. Our programs and resources can help parents and children throughout their whole school career.

Membership to the Library is free and entitles you and your children to borrow Books, CDs, DVDs, CD ROMs, Magazines and Audio Books.

Each of the six branches of Rockdale City Library has a specialised Junior Collection which offers children's materials for different age groups. Our qualified staff is also able to assist you with queries about our programs and resources. Please ask the Library staff if you need assistance finding material or using our catalogue.

You can also access our [Library catalogue](http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/library) on the web at www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/library and look up resources from home.

Looking for things to do during the School Holidays?

Look out for the following programs:

School Holiday Activities

Our branches at Rockdale, Arncliffe, Bexley North and Sans Souci offer a school holiday program with crafts, games and special speakers or performers. The activities are free but bookings are essential. You can check for available activities, times and dates two weeks prior to the beginning of the holidays.

Summer Reading Program

Looking for a way to keep the kids reading over the long summer school holidays? Every year, the Library offers a summer reading program that encourages primary school children to read as many books as they can. The more books they read, the more prizes they can win. Please check for details in late December.

The following RESOURCES are available for School Starters:

The Learning-to-Read Collection

This is a collection of graded readers. At the most basic level, these small books feature one word to one sentence per page. As your child's reading skills increase, they will be able to choose from the many titles at the more advanced levels. This collection can supplement the home readers your school may supply.



This play-based Learning-to-Read database is available on our web site www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/library.

Intrepica has games and exercises for pre-readers and primary students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and helps them learn to read or build on their literacy skills. You need a library card to log on to Intrepica.



TumbleBookLibrary is an online collection of interactive, animated and talking picture books which

help young children learn how to read. Stories are available in English, French and Spanish. To access the TumbleBookLibrary please log on to www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/library.

Picture Books

The Library has two collections of picture books at each branch:

- **EASIES** for preschool to early primary school children
- **FROGS** for primary school children, Kindergarten to Year 6

The bold and bright pictures of these books are attractive and age appropriate. Spending time reading these to your child will further increase their literacy skills until they can read them by themselves.

The Premier's Reading Challenge

Many schools participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge which runs from 1 February to 1 September. You can find books for the **K-2 Challenge** at all Libraries.

Non-Fiction Books

Our junior non-fiction books support all areas of study, like science and maths, but, more importantly at this age, they can stimulate interests and help answer questions on your child's favourite topics. Your child may be interested in dinosaurs, dogs, cars or ballet, and the Library has books to satisfy their curiosity on these special interests.

TIPS FOR STARTING SCHOOL

Ready!

Get involved in 'prior to school' activities the year before your child starts school

- Playgroups
- Childcare

Contact local schools

- Decide on your school and enrol early
- Ask about 'transition to kindergarten' for your child

Get your child's paper work together

- Immunisation records
- Birth certificate

Set!

Label your child's school gear

- Uniform, shoes and hat
- Bag, lunch box and drink bottle

Practice routines

- Getting dressed
- Going to the toilet without help
- Using a drink bottle and lunch box and opening the contents
- Encourage independence in packing away toys, their bag and looking after their possessions
- Getting to and from school

Talk to your child about what school will be like

- What fun and interesting things they will learn
- The great school friends they will make
- What is their teacher's name?
- Take their concerns seriously and talk about them
- Go and visit the school as often as possible
- Focus on positives and on children's strengths

Go!

The first and each school day

- Ensure your child has a good night's sleep
- Prepare a healthy breakfast
- Have their uniform ready
- Have their school bag and lunch box packed
- Recognise the demands on your child physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually
- And don't forget to ask what they liked best about their school day!

A Selection of Books Available from Rockdale City Library

Children's Books

Bloom, Becky	When Parents Go to School
Carlstrom, Nancy	It's Your First Day of School, Annie Claire!
Child, Lauren	I Am Absolutely too Small for School (A Charlie and Lola book)
Cousins, Lucy	Maisy Goes to Pre-School
McGhee, Alison	Countdown to Kindergarten
Thomas, Pat	Do I Have to Go to School?
Pando, Nancy	I Don't Want to Go to School: Helping Children Cope with Separation Anxiety
Ross, Tony	I Want a Friend
Whybrow, Ian	Harry and The Dinosaurs Go to School
Wild, Margaret	Tom Goes to Kindergarten

Parenting Books

Heriot, Sandra	Is Your Child Ready for School?
Berne, Sue	Starting School: How to Help Your Child be Prepared

Useful Websites

(Sources: Families NSW, Ana Levar, Rockdale City Library and Community Information Service)

NSW Department of Education

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/primary/startingschool.php>

Raising Children Network

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/starting_school.html/context/18

Kidspot

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/subsection+56+Starting-School.htm>

Prepared For Kindergarten Readiness: What does 'readiness' mean?

<http://nieer.org/resources/policyreports/report5.pdf>

Please visit us at:

Rockdale

448 Princes Highway - Tel 9562 1821
Monday to Friday - 9am to 8pm
Saturday - 9am to 5pm

Arncliffe

11 Firth Street - Tel 9562 1816
Monday to Friday - 10am to 6pm
Saturday - 10am to 1pm

Bexley

499 Forest Road - Tel 9562 1813
Monday & Wednesday - 10am to 6pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday - Closed

Bexley North

24 Shaw Street - Tel 9562 1814
Monday to Friday - 10am to 6pm
Saturday - 10am to 1pm

Brighton Le Sands

1 Moate Avenue - Tel 9562 1812
Tuesday & Thursday - 10am to 6pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday - Closed

Sans Souci

Cnr Clareville & Russell Avenues - Tel 9562 1817
Monday to Friday - 10am to 6pm
Saturday - 10am to 1pm