



Let's Go to School!

3-Part Virtual Series Handout

This information includes key messages from the Provincial Preschool Autism Service virtual series found here: [Let's Go to School! Webinars](#). This series is for parents and caregivers of children with autism to learn strategies to support a successful school transition.

Everyone is Ready for School!

- Children develop in different ways and at different rates.
- There is no clear definition of “school readiness”.
- Schools meet the needs of the student where they are at the time.

Supports Available at School

- In Class Support
- Learning Support Teachers (Learning Centre, Resource) and Specialists
- Teacher Assistant (TA) support as allocated/available.
- Referrals to specialists (School Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist, Autism Specialist)

Be a Champion for My Child!

- Being a champion for your child means to support your child’s strengths and speak up for their needs, and the needs of you and your family.
- Your perspective is important! You can also support your child to share their own needs.

Setting a Goal: Plan, Prepare, Practice

- Think about your child’s strengths. Meet your child where they are!
- Set a SMART Goal (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely)
- There are strategies you can use to help build skills:



Use your child’s motivation



Break things down into steps



Prompt the skill



Use positive reinforcement



Fade your support slowly over time



Be consistent and practice often

Prepare for School Transition Meeting

- Decide who you want to invite.
- Prepare your questions.
- Talk about your child’s strengths.
- Bring reports that describe your child.
- Share the expectations you have for your child at school.

Build Bridges and Create Connections

- Collaboration between parents and schools is very important!
- This partnership helps your child get support that is just for them.
- Communication is key! Be respectful and open, be an active listener, be curious, be timely.
- Build the relationship by having regular check-ins and stay informed by asking questions.