

# Back To School

After Summer holidays of sleeping in or doing things on your time, the alarm bell is once again announcing that school is back! School is both a place for learning and a language rich environment where we develop our skills as communicators. However, parents, siblings, extended family and friends can all help support communication opportunities with our children so that their ever growing language skills can benefit them as they progress through their education.

- Care about what children say and show them that you care by listening and responding.
- Even busy families can eat and talk together, sharing something good or interesting that happened that day (leaving the television and electronic devices off).
- Remember to wait a minimum of 3 seconds after asking a question. This then allows enough time to reflect on the question and formulate what they wish to say.
- Help with communication efforts e.g., supplying a word they are searching for, but be careful to not speak for them or over them.
- More talking by adults is not necessarily better! Silence can allow time for children to think about what has been said and to add something.
- Open ended questions lead to deeper communication. For example: What do you think about .... ? What do you find useful about .... ?