

Professional Development Resource

Topic: Tips for Starting School

Video pod: Tips for Starting School

Please see link [here](#).

Starting school can be a challenging experience for many children, but it can be especially challenging for refugee families, who are adjusting to a new country and culture. This video pod provides some key tips and strategies to help families and children from a refugee background on how to navigate the transition to school with greater ease. From addressing cultural differences to supporting English language and play, it covers a range of insights and offers practical advice to better support families and children in their school journey. The positionality of the domain of ‘Tips for starting school’ is depicted in the *Knowledge Translation Framework* developed below.



Vignette	Key ideas shared in the vignettes	After watching the vignette, document your reflections and take away messages here to share with others
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hub values building strong relationships with families and children from a refugee background and recognizes the importance of involving parents in their children's education. • To help students start school successfully, it is important to take a proactive approach to settling them in. This involves engaging bicultural workers during enrolment and conducting home visits to ensure clear communication with families who don't speak English as their first language. • It is important to provide bilingual and cultural support to refugee families to help them understand their role in their children's schooling and education. 	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to engage with migrant and refugee communities to facilitate an easy transition from home life to school life. • The centre plays a central role to support families in understanding the process of school, enrolment, structure, and routine, and that their children are ready to learn. • The centre employs bilingual staff in teacher aid positions to tap into different languages to support families during the transition to school. 	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settling into schools can be a challenge for mothers and children, due to cultural differences and lifestyle expectations in Australia. • Communication issues arise when mothers cannot explain problems at school properly. • Constructive play has a central role in reducing language barriers. 	

Questions /Learning Activity: Tips for starting school

1. How can hub and centre leaders effectively communicate with refugee families to help them understand the process of school, including enrolment, structure, and routine?
2. How can hub and centre leaders support refugee families in understanding and adapting to cultural differences in Australian schools?
3. What strategies can be implemented to address language barriers and facilitate communication with refugee families about school-related issues?
4. How can hub and centre leaders support the development of social skills and play abilities in refugee children to facilitate their adjustment into Australian schools?
5. What can schools and their hubs and centres learn from refugee families about different expectations of school?