# TiPS for transitioning to mainstream school

1. Visit the new school to make sure it is familiar to your child. Practice the journey to and from school.
2. If you plan to pick your child up after school, agree on the time and place. Some schools offer after school care if you need it.
3. Attend information sessions and encourage your child to participate in orientation activities.
4. Check if the school has a Multicultural Educational Aide (MEA) who can speak your community language.
5. Contact your child’s school for free interpreting services if needed. This is available for certain activities.
6. Give the school your contact details so you can be contacted if needed. Know the school’s contact number.
7. Get a copy of the timetable so you know what classes your child has. Tell the school if your child will be absent or late.
8. Let the school know if your child has any medical conditions or special needs. Speak to the school if you have any concerns.
9. Before school starts, buy your child’s school uniform. Some schools will also sell second hand uniforms.
10. Get the required books and stationery – ask the school for a list and how to order it.
11. Put your child’s name on all of their belongings such as clothing and equipment.
12. The school may require students to have a laptop or iPad. Ask the school what kind your child will need.
13. Pack healthy food. Find out if the school has a canteen.
14. Encourage your child to join homework clubs or other out of school activities.
15. If financial assistance is needed, contact your child’s school for financial support to meet school costs.

For more information see [Going to school](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/default.aspx)