Dear Parent/Caregiver

Welcome to the 2016 school year. I know it must be an exciting time for you as your child starts preschool. Whether this is your first child to begin their school journey, or you have experienced the first day of preschool before, the feelings of anticipation and nervousness for our children are always present on their first day.

Our preschools can work with you to support your child’s learning needs, developing friendships and adjusting to changes in their lives, including starting preschool. This year your child’s preschool will work hard to develop the necessary skills and attendance habits your child needs in preparation for school. They will be keen to work with you in nurturing the growth of your child.

While we all know it is important, it isn’t always easy to know what to do to assist children with their learning. On the back of this letter are some ideas and resources I have found helpful, or that have been recommended to me by other parents. I hope they are useful for you.

If you are able, I encourage you to join your preschool’s governing council or volunteer to help out where possible. Being involved helps you get to know the staff and other parents and of course it helps all of the children at the preschool.

To make it easier for you to volunteer, the government has recently made some changes to the screening clearance process if you volunteer to support your child at preschool. Please contact your preschool if you would like further information in relation to these changes, or visit the website at www.decd.sa.gov.au.

I am proud of the high quality education that we provide in our government preschools. A key strength of our public education system is our community involvement and working together we can continue to make our preschools and schools even better.

Yours sincerely

Susan Close
Minister for Education and Child Development

27/01/2016
Simple things you can do to support your child:

- Ask your child what they have been doing at preschool and link it to activities you do around the home
- Talk positively about numbers and how you use them every day in counting, shopping, cooking and measuring
- Read to and with your child every day if you can. Visit your local library and let your child choose books they like
- Encourage your child to share their drawings with you

Some helpful resources:

- Ideas and activities that can help you make the most of everyday learning and events:  
  http://www.greatstart.sa.edu.au/
- An app to help you unlock your child’s learning potential:  
  https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/early-years
- Ideas for helping your child with numeracy and literacy:  
- Parent easy guides, including starting school:  
- A wide range of parenting information, including dealing with tantrums:  
  http://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/preschoolers.html