Transition Handbook 2015
We would like to welcome you and your child to Transition at Gray Primary School

We wish you and your child a pleasant and productive time at Gray Primary School.

This booklet has been prepared to give you some information about the Transition program at Gray Primary School.

Transition is the first year of schooling in the NT and equates to:

- NSW - Kindergarten
- Qld - Year 1
- Vic - Prep
- WA - Pre Primary
- Tas - Prep
- SA - Reception

Transition provides an environment where children have the opportunity to further develop appropriate social skills and the prerequisite skills for literacy and numeracy in a structured, 'Discovery Learning' environment.

**It is important to remember that no two children progress at the same rate as they develop cognitively, socially, physically and emotionally.**

**Eligibility**
Children who turn 5 before 30th June 2015 and have completed at least 6 months of a preschool program (or equivalent) are eligible to commence Transition at Gray Primary School at the beginning of the 2015 school year.
Things to Practise:

- Putting shoes and socks on independently
- Packing school bags
- Managing lunch boxes
- Recognising his/her own name and writing it
- Making sure your child can manage his/her own clothes when he/she needs to go to the toilet.
- Reading books to your child.

School Times Term 1
School commences for children on Tuesday 27th January, 2015

School commences at 8.00 and finishes at 2.30. Please make sure you collect your child promptly at 2.30 from outside the classroom.

Transition students are not to come to school or leave school unless they are accompanied by an adult or an older brother or sister.

The Curriculum
The Curriculum for the Early Years classes at Gray Primary School allows children to learn about their environment by being involved in active, hands-on learning. Investigations are complemented with explicit teaching activities that are teacher directed. Literacy and Numeracy is based on the Australian Curriculum.
Outcomes of the Transition program include:

- Following the “Gray Way”
- Understand and work in the “Learning Zone”
- Understanding and learning to be “on task”
- Understanding and using 5 L’s
- Confidence and self-esteem
- A positive attitude to learning
- Fine and gross motor skill development
- Cooperative play
- Learning to listen to and follow directions
- Language development
- Emotional development
- Cognitive development (knowledge) in English & Maths
- Development of independence, self reliance and initiative
- Care of their environment
- Understanding and following rules and routines

Assemblies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Childhood Assembly</th>
<th>Whole School Assembly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Friday in weeks 4, 6, and 8, at 8:30am in the school hall. Everyone is welcome.</td>
<td>On the ‘Friday of ‘odd’ weeks at 8.10 in the school hall. Everyone is welcome.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Merit Cards
One of the ways that Gray Primary School celebrates students achievements is with “The Gray Way” Merit cards. Each time your child receives 5 Mini Merit cards, these need to be brought back to the class teacher to be exchanged for 1 Maxi Merit at Assembly. Likewise, when your child has received 5 Maxi Merit cards, these need to be brought to the school office to be
exchanged for 1 giant Merit card at Assembly. So start saving those special Mini Merit cards!

**The Learning Zone**
Students come to school to “Learn”. Once students enter the school grounds and then the classroom they are in “The Learning Zone”. This means they settle, listen and focus on the lesson and instructions so they can learn.

**On Task**
Students are to concentrate and carry out the required task - be it lunch in the fridge, sitting on the mat to listen, working at their desk or putting their hat on to play.

**The Gray Way**
At Gray Primary School we follow “The Gray Way.” There are 5 keys to success at Gray Primary School and they are - Getting Along, Confidence, Organisation, Persistence and Resilience. These keys govern the way we behave at Gray Primary School both in and out of the classroom. Students who consistently do not follow The Gray Way will be given a lunch time detention.

**5 L’s**
Students sit on the mat using 5 L’s. These are Legs (crossed), Lap (hands in lap), Listen (ears), Lips (no talking), Look (eyes to the front) and then they are ready to Learn.
**School Uniform**
School uniforms are compulsory at Gray Primary School. This is the policy for all NT government schools. If your child does not have a school uniform yet, contact the front Office about student vouchers for 2015. This consists of a school uniform, black shorts/skirt and closed in footwear.

**Hats and Shoes**
Your child needs a hat for outside play. We cannot see the damage that the sun can do to our body, so we encourage all students to wear a hat during outside play. Students who do not have a hat or closed-in shoes will have to stay under the verandah and miss out on outdoor play. Thongs and high heeled sandals are not permissible.

**Library**
Transition classes will visit the school library once a week. Each child needs a library bag to carry the book he/she will borrow. If the book is not returned the following week, the child will not be allowed to borrow another book until they have returned the first one.

**Label Belongings**
Please write your child’s name on all their belongings that are brought to school to avoid confusion and ensure that lost property is returned.
**Lunches**
Please pack your child’s lunch in the mornings and send it to school with them. All lunches are placed in the classroom fridge so no ice block is needed to keep lunches cool. Please label all lunch boxes and ensure that your child can identify their own containers. Can your child undo the glad wrap? Can they undo the drink bottle? Is their lunch box named? It is best to pack recess and lunch separately. Please ensure only healthy food is sent to school, such as a meat/salad sandwich or wrap, fresh fruit, rice crackers, yoghurt.

**Fruit and Water Break**
We have a fruit and water break every morning. Please send a piece of fruit for your child and a labelled water bottle. Please send fruit already cut up if necessary eg. Oranges. Fruit break is separate to recess and lunch.

**Lunch Order**
We are very fortunate to have our own school canteen. If you wish to order food for your child, please do the following.
1. Write clearly on a paper bag:
   - The child’s name.
   - The classroom number and the teacher’s name.
   - The food item you wish to purchase.
2. Place the money inside the bag.
3. Place the bag in our lunch crate in our classroom.
   Please do not send loose money to school. Orders must be made at home or in the classroom by parents. No orders will be made by teachers.

Our lunch crate needs to be at the canteen by 9 o’clock every morning. If both recess and lunch are being ordered then this needs to be clearly marked on the bag as well. Bags are available in the classroom.
THE CANTEEN IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS

Please note that if the child’s name is not clearly written on the bag it will not be possible for the canteen helpers know to whom it belongs.

End of Day Routine
Parents and Caregivers are most welcome to our classroom. However, we urge all parents and caregivers to please wait outside the classroom for their child at the completion of the school day. The end of day routine is an important part of our school program and we ask for your support in allowing the students to establish this routine with minimum interruption.

Who will pick up your child?
For your child’s safety please let us know as soon as possible who will be picking up your child at the end of the day.

If you are going to be late, let us know, so that we can reassure your child as he or she waits. Also, if you are running late and your child is not in the classroom please check at the front office.

Have your contact numbers changed? Give us the new contact number so that we can contact you in case of an emergency.
Absences
If your child is absent please send a note for our records or notify the school via email on admin.graysch@ntschools.net or on 89321700.
If your child attends Out of School Hours Care please notify them.

School Times

School times are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Recess play time - teacher supervises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20</td>
<td>Students eat recess - teacher supervises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.40</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Lunch play time - teacher supervises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.55</td>
<td>Students eat lunch - teacher supervises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>School finishes for the day</td>
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Punctuality
It is important that children arrive on time. Students who miss the beginning of the school day often have trouble settling into class routines.

Breakfast Club for Gray Primary School students
- **When?** Every morning from 7.30
- **Where?** In the Gray Family Centre side room.
A big thank you to the Red Cross and supporting staff for providing our students with a very important meal and start to the day.
Reading Club
- **When?** 7:30 – 8:00 am Tuesday - Friday
- **Where?** Ms Kylie’s Room in the Gray Family Centre
- **What?** Reading books, listening to stories, practising Oxford words and playing literacy games with your family, big buddies and school staff.

**Medication**
If your child is on medication and requires a dosage during school time, the front office needs to be informed. Parents need to fill in an authorisation form to authorise the relevant staff to administer the medication to your child.
Please note: **Medication CANNOT be administered at school without this form being completed.**

**Allergies**
Please ensure that teachers are informed of any allergies your child may have, so that arrangements can be made to cater for the individual needs of your child in cooking lessons or special events, and fill out a Student Health Care Plan.

**Communication between Home and School**
- Please **check** your child’s bag everyday for notes. Notes from class teachers are frequent
- Newsletters - are emailed or on the web (see the office if you would like to receive the newsletter via email).
- **Read** the newsletter and check the website to find out what is happening at school.
- When you **visit** our classroom, look at the information and notices on our notice board inside & outside our classroom.
- **Ring** the school and **talk** to someone if you have any doubts or questions about our school.
Most importantly, talk to your child’s teacher if you have any questions about your child. You can contact the school by email on admin.graysch@ntscoles.net or by telephone on 89321700 to organise a time convenient for us to meet.

A change of clothes
Please send a set of clothes and a plastic bag for your child in case of toileting accidents. Mark each piece of clothing with the child’s name.

Toys
Please do not send toys to school. We have plenty of games and activities in our classrooms to occupy our students.

With regards from the Transition Team
Gray Primary School
Transition Readiness at Gray School

Is My Child Ready for Transition?

Child development experts continue to disagree about the ‘right’ age for a child to start school, but there is an emerging belief that numerous other factors, not just chronological age, should be used as criteria for school entry. As children grow, they develop at different rates so age may not be the best indicator of school readiness. You must consider all aspects of your child’s development because if they enter school before they are ready to cope their chances of failure and low self-esteem increase dramatically. They can lose confidence and feel they can’t cope.

What Should I Be Looking For In My Child?

While there’s no perfect formula that determines when children are truly ready for Transition, you can use this list to see how well your child is doing in acquiring the skills found on most Transition checklists. Young children change so fast – if they can’t do something this week, they may be able to do it a few weeks later.

- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Recognise rhyming words eg hat/cat/fat/mat
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Understand actions have both causes and effects
- Show understanding of general times of day
- Cut with scissors
- Trace basic shapes
- Begin to share with others
- Start to follow rules
- Be able to recognize authority
- Manage bathroom needs
- Button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers
- Begin to control oneself
- Separate from parents without being upset
- Speak understandably/clearly
- Talk in complete sentences of five to six words
- Look at pictures and then tell stories
- Identify the beginning sound of some words
- Identify alphabet letters, their name and sound
- Clap a simple pattern
- Recognize some common sight words like “stop”
- Sort similar objects by colour, size, and shape
- Recognize groups of one, two, three, four, and five objects
- Count to ten
- Throw, catch and bounce a ball
- Recognise and write their own name.

If your child has acquired most of the skills on this list and will be at least 4 ½ years old at the start of the year, he or she is probably ready for Transition.

Remember that what teachers want to see on the first day of school are children who are healthy, mature, capable and eager to learn.
Get Ready for Transition
How do you decide what skills your child needs for School?

Motor skills are the foundation for much of a child’s early learning and are more important than we ever thought. Fine motor skills are needed before a child can learn to write and there is a relationship between gross motor skills and learning to read.

Some of the essential Skills for Transition

- **Fine Motor** – Skills for School:
  - Hand dominance – right or left handed
  - Drawing with detail
  - Writing their name
  - Neat and accurate scissor skills.

- **Gross Motor** – Skills for School:
  - Catching & throwing
  - Running & jumping with coordination
  - Balancing
  - Muscle tone for strength and stability
  - Midline crossing

- **Visual Perception** – Skills for School:
  - Copying sequences/patterns
  - Copying shapes
  - Finding hidden objects

- **Self Care** – Skills for School:
  - Dressing
  - Tying shoelaces
  - Managing zippers and buttons
  - Opening lunch & snack packets
  - Packing and unpacking school gear

- **Following Direction** – Skills for School:
  - Naming and identifying colours
  - Following more than one direction.
  - Counting to 10
  - Concentrating and completing activities
  - Can speak clearly so others can understand what they are saying

Is Your Child Ready for School?

- Can they **hold their pencil correctly**?
- Can they **write their name**?
- Can they **dress themselves**?
- Can they **hop, jump, skip**?
- Can they **cut out neatly**?
- Can they **draw shapes**?
- Can they **copy a pattern**?
- Can they **make a pattern**?
- Can they **tie their shoelaces**?
- Do they **know their numbers to ten**?
- Can they **speak clearly**?
- Can they **recite the alphabet song**?
- Can they **listen attentively**?
- Can they **take directions from adults**?
- Can they **get along with others**?
- Can they **sit still** (when necessary and look at the person who is talking)?