



Helping In The Classroom

Ripponlea Primary welcomes parent helpers in all year levels. Depending on the level, parents assist by participating in a range of activities. These might include:

- reading to children
- listening to children read
- leading a discussing about what has been read
- setting up games or laptops and helping children get started on these activities
- ensuring children participate appropriately eg. turn taking and stay on task

The range of activities is endless! Teachers will explain what they would like you to do and after a few visits you will understand most routines.

There are a few very important things to remember if you are helping out in the classroom:

1. Everyone coming into the school to work with children requires a Working with Children Check (WWC). This is free for volunteers and all the details can be found at <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>
Be sure to bring your Post Office receipt and then, later on, your WWC card to the office for us to copy.
2. Schools are quite different to what you might remember! We know a lot more now about how children learn and the classroom and teaching practices are probably not going to be familiar to you. Be guided by the teacher and don't be afraid to ask questions.
3. You are there to assist the teacher and a range of children. Don't expect to always work with your own child. It's often better if your child sees you working with others. The very fact that you are at school sends the message to your child that you are interested in school and education. Research shows that parent engagement is an important factor in a student's school performance.
4. Be prepared to be firm in your expectations of behaviour – there will be times when you will need to ask children to listen, stay on task etc. One of these children might be your own! Be fair and even-handed to all children.
5. Privacy! You will be privy to a range of social behaviours and learning achievements. It is absolutely vital that you do not share any of this information with other parents – be it positive or negative. If you have any comments or concerns, please approach one of the teachers in the learning space rather than talk to other parents.

Year levels will begin calling for helpers in term 2. If you have any specific questions about what is required of you as a helper or questions about the teaching and learning practices at RPS, please don't hesitate to ask either myself or a teacher.

Linda Rippingille
Assistant Principal

'When one teaches, two learn' – Robert Heinlein