

□ DAYCARE FOUND TO GIVE PRE-SCHOOLERS A HEAD START □

Tots
&
teens



child perform by himself simple tasks like paying for something at the store or ordering his food at a restaurant. This is an easy way to develop his confidence and sense of independence."

Prepare them for teasing

"Explain that going to school has its problems. Take teasing, for example. Children who cannot take some teasing will usually attract more of it than others. It's like a fish going for the hook. No one likes to be teased, but you have to learn to accept it good-naturedly."

Parents should also remind their children that following a few basic rules will help them to be accepted by the others. For example, they should avoid tattling: "You would be amazed to see how many schoolchildren will make a habit of telling on others and then wonder why they have no friends," she remarked.

Parents are advised not to reward their children when they do this. Children who persist in tattling are sometimes trying to compensate for their own lack of confidence by causing problems for their friends.

An only child of preschool age will often tend to be timid and withdrawn. Parents can remedy this by encouraging them to meet other children their own age. Invite their cousins to spend a few days with them. Or organize a party for the other children in the neighbourhood — some of them might be as timid as your own child □

(Excerpted from various sources)

The fact that your pre-schooler knows the alphabet does not necessarily mean that he is ready to begin school. According to a primary school counsellor, children must learn how to live in groups before they attend kindergarten.

Kindergarten teachers maintain that daycare or pre-kindergarten puts children "miles ahead" of others in terms of fostering a communal spirit. Being with children their own age teaches them the attitude of sharing that must prevail in the kindergarten class.

However, not all families have access to a pre-kindergarten facility. One mother of two teenagers offers the following advice to parents who wish to help their children prepare: "Let your

