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HANDY HINTS FOR IPSWICH PARENTS WITH FIRST-TIME STUDENTS

Around 54,000 state and non-state school parents across Queensland will be helping their children prepare for the first full intake of Prep in 2008.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said the full implementation of Prep would see more than 37,000 students enrol for Prep in state schools, up from 23,000 students in 2007.

"Additional teachers and teacher aide time will be allocated to schools to meet this increased level of enrolment," Ms Nolan said.

"Feedback about the first year of Prep has been overwhelmingly positive from staff, students and parents.

"Prep ensures every Queensland student gets a great start to education by promoting social and emotional growth, and developing their communication, numeracy, literacy and motor skills."

Ms Nolan said parents have a major role to play in helping their child embrace school and learning.

"Children are more comfortable with routine, so it's a good idea to start talking about what is going to happen before, during and after school," she said.

"Sometimes a full dress-rehearsal and a visit to your child's school and classroom will help them adjust.

"Pack a healthy lunch, and remind your child to save some food for both lunch breaks. Remember to also pack a water bottle and a hat in your child's school bag.

"Encourage your child to bond with their teachers and be positive about your child's attendance at school."

Education and Training Minister Rod Welford said Education Queensland staff were well prepared to help students adjust to the start of the 2008 school year.

"About 600 additional full-time teachers will be allocated to Queensland state schools to support the full intake of Prep students in 2008," Mr Welford said.

"Additional funding of up to \$7.5 million for Prep teacher aide time in 2008 will also be provided to support the increased enrolments."

For more information about helping your child settle into the Prep Year visit:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf/prepkit.html>, <http://www.aisq.qld.edu.au> or <http://www.qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au>, or speak to your child's teacher or principal.