

Program a step to 'big school'

Pre-schoolers about to take the step to "big school" next year can take part in a program to help them prepare for that transition.

The Shellharbour/Kiama network for transition to school is holding a picnic next Wednesday aimed at giving school starters and families a chance to enhance relationships with their school and its principal in an informal setting.

The picnic will be held at Blackbutt Amphitheatre, Blackbutt Reserve, Shellharbour, from 10am-noon.

It caters for all schools in the Kiama and Shellharbour areas and there will be a guest appearance from Billy Backpack, the program's mascot.

Illawarra Children's Services transition to school project officer Kath Smith said more than 200 children would be attending the picnic.

"Starting school is a critical period in every child's development," she said.

"Research shows that a positive transition to school impacts significantly on a child's life."

The Transition to School program is a NSW Government initiative funded by Families First.

It promotes good practice in transition by working with schools, families and communities.