



In the bag: Community services minister Reba Meagher and Billy Backpack launch a website to help kindy kids cope. Picture: ROBERT PEET

Kindergarten blues cure just a click away

By VERONICA APAP

THE tears and tantrums of the first day at big school might have ended two weeks ago, but there could still be unanswered questions for the parents who had to leave their little ones at the school gate.

To help them, the Illawarra Transition to School Project launched its website yesterday at Bellambi Point Preschool.

The website has practical

advice for parents helping their children adjust to school, along with games and help for teachers.

Minister for Community Services Reba Meagher launched the website and said many students may still be adjusting to the pace and routine of school.

"Starting kindergarten can be a big change for a young child, so it's important parents and carers make the

experience as positive as possible," she said.

"It is never too early for parents to be preparing their children, so it is valuable to families who have children starting school next year as well."

The Illawarra Transition to School Project is a network of primary schools, preschools and day care centres which aims to make starting school as painless as possible for parents

and students. The website has information on topics including nutrition, body image, managing asthma at school, managing bullying and out-of-hours care.

Earlier, Ms Meagher presented grants to Shoalhaven scout groups and the Shoalhaven Heads Men's Shed with Kiama MP Matt Brown.

The website is www.transitionto-school.com.au.