



A bored child. Going to school at the right age makes learning fun for children

desire to go to school. When you are preparing the child to school, you should take note of the school environment for the teachers' attitude. Welcoming? What is the age used? Is it child friendly? Does it encourage the child to study? With such questions, it would help you make the best choice of school for your child who is just starting out in life. Otherwise, school, no matter how well you have prepared your child for school, can kill the desire to study.

DEAL WITH ANXIETY WHEN CHILDREN START SCHOOL

Separating a child from a parent, more so a mother is a trying experience. It especially becomes hard when it comes to start school.

Emily, now a mother of two, had fears that her son and firstborn would not welcome the new venture, which is commonly called school.

"He had never been anywhere without us. My husband and I were always with him so I thought he would not enjoy his first day at school," she explains.

Her son could hardly say 10 words and most friends and relatives had predicted that he would have a hard time at school.

"We handed him over to a teacher who had a crying child holding onto her skirt. While my husband went to the car, I worried and fretted about how my boy would react. I stayed back and watched him for about five minutes, but he did not cry, not even for me," she says.

When they picked him up, she was happy to find him happy on his first day, so much for worrying about him all day.

Another mother, Prim, could not wait for the day to end to pick up her son from his first day at school.

"It was such a moment for all of us. His grandparents took photos of him, as did his uncles and I. We were all excited that he was starting school," she recalls.

Prim took him to school and she says he was happy. He went to play in the

playground, but sadly did not notice when his mother left.

"I didn't say bye. I stood for a bit and watched him play and then left, but I was restless all day. I wanted to get my son and I picked him up 15 minutes early," she says.

The teachers told her that he had cried the whole day and refused to remove his bag from his shoulders. The headteacher had to take him to her office because she anticipated that first day at school can make some children forlorn.

"Mummy, you left me," was what he said when I picked him. I felt so sad," she recalls.

For Louis's grandparents, taking him to school was a big separation issue. They loved their grandson so much but he was due to start school.

His grandfather decided that he should spend 30 minutes at school on his first day of school. Parting was such sweet sorrow because his grandmother carried him and did not want to put him down.

Louis cried, but later played with his new friends – for 30 minutes! And he spent 30 minutes at school for his first week. Gradually, the following week, Louis spent an hour and by the third week, he would stay till midday like the other children.

