

PRE-SCHOOL LIST

Words in this list were known by children who were about to commence formal schooling in New South Wales. The children ranged in age from 4;7 years to 5;11 years. Words and phrases in bold print are the known words. Phrases in normal print are provided to show the particular meanings known by the children in this group.

a – a little boy
able – she **is able to** come tomorrow
Aboriginal Australian
absolutely beautiful
about – a book **about** dinosaurs
 - he's **about** 10 years old
about to leave the house
above – see **above** (in a book)
abracadabra said the magician
accident between two cars
ache
achieve a goal
acorn
across – walk **across** the road
 - they live **across** the lake
act like a gentleman
active – an **active** puppy
actually – **actually** I've never seen one
ad
add sand to the sandpit
 - **add up** numbers
address – **address** a letter
adult – Mum is an **adult**
adventure – my **adventure** in the jungle
aerial on a radio
aeroplane
aerosol can
afloat – the boat stayed
afloat after it was hit
afraid of the dark
after – she came in **after** Jack
 - **after** lunch
afternoon
afterwards
again – he laughed **again**
against – she's **against** sleepovers

- protection **against** the sun
 - leaning **against** a wall
age – what **age** is she?
 - I've been here **for ages**
aggro
ago – they left a day **ago**
ahead of the other runners
ahoy
aim a gun
air coming in the window
 - the balloon was finally **in the air**
airconditioner
aircraft
airport
alarm – fire **alarm**
album – photo **album**
alcohol
alien – an **alien** from Mars
alive – the fly is still **alive**
all the food is gone
all aboard
all over the place
allergy
allergic
alligator
allow – I'm **allowed** to go
almost asleep
alone in the playground
 - **leave it alone**
along – walk **along** a road
 - can I bring my friend **along**?
aloud
alphabet
already
also
although
altogether (in total)
always
am
amazing
ambulance
anchor on a ship
and
angel
anger
angry
animal
annoy
another
answer – **answer** me
 - what's your **answer**?
 - **answer** the phone
antenna on an insect

- TV **antenna**
any
anybody
anyone
anything – don't touch **anything**
anywhere
apart – fall **apart**
apart – **apart from** Sienna, everyone wants to go
apologise
apple
apply – this rule **applies** to us all
appointment – make an **appointment** for 10 o'clock
appreciate – I **appreciate** your kindness
apron
arch
are – **are** we there yet?
argue – don't **argue** with me
argument
arm – two strong **arms**
armour
army
around – my friends are **around** me
 - my purse is somewhere **around** here
arrive at pre-school
arrow
art – study **art** at school
artist
as – she sang **as** (while) she walked
 - not **as** long **as** this one
 - use chairs **as** a bed
as well as – I need apples **as well as** bananas
ask
asleep
astronaut
at – he saw me **at** the park
attack – the lion **attacked** the zebra
attention – pay **attention**
attic
audience at a concert
Australia
Australian flag
available
awake – she's **awake** now
award – give out **awards** at assembly