



Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 4, Term 2

Principal Message

It has been so wonderful to welcome back children and families this week. The children are doing well. The children, and the educators, are enjoying being engaged in hands on learning opportunities again.



The learning will be focussed, and as always reflect the Australian Curriculum for our K-2 students and The Early Years Learning Framework in preschool. I talk about 'academic rigour' and whilst this sounds technical it is about us as educators being committed to providing high quality learning that is meaningful, purposeful and enables the children to think deeply about concepts. We hold high expectations for each child.

Drop off and Pick up

Thank you to the adults for practising physical distancing during drop off and pick up times. Our continued use of the side gate is helping us to implement these physical distancing requirements. It also allows our families using Communities@Work to enter through reception, reducing the number of adults in the front office. Just a reminder the gate is open between 8.30am and 9.15am in the morning with before school supervision of students by a staff member. The gate is open between 2.45pm and 3.15pm in the afternoon for after school pick up. The gate is always locked during the school day outside of these times.

Due to preschool regulations preschool children are still required to be dropped off and collected at the classroom by an authorised adult. We ask that families use physical distancing whilst waiting on the verandah outside the preschool

classroom. In the morning staff will allow five families into the preschool class at a time for the drop off process. There will be hand sanitiser outside each preschool classroom and we ask that adults use it before entering the classroom. Please help your child to put away their school bag and then remind your child to go straight to the bathroom to wash their hands. We ask for your patience and understanding during this process.

At the end of the school day please wait on the verandah and staff will bring children to the door to be collected by their authorised adult.

Illness:

If a staff member or student is unwell for any reason, they must not attend an ACT public school. If they attend while unwell, they will be sent home. This is an important community response that all caregivers, students and staff need to take seriously in order to prevent COVID-19. AHPPC do not recommend regular temperature checking of students as there is limited evidence to suggest this is of value.

Handwashing procedures:

Educators will be asking the children to wash their hands regularly to help keep everyone healthy.



The children will wash their hands at the following times:

- Arrive at school
- Before eating
- After using the toilet
- After playing outside
- At the end of the school day

Devices and Resources:

Just a reminder if you borrowed a Chromebook from NECS during the remote learning period it would be appreciated if you could return the computer and charging cord as soon as possible. You may return the device to your child's class teacher or the front office. Please also return all workbooks that were sent home, readers, whiteboards, dice, unifix cubes, number charts etc. These resources were borrowed from the classroom and the children will need to use them in the classroom again upon their return.

School cleaning:

Cleaning throughout Term 2 will be in accordance with advice from the ACT Health Directorate and World Health Organisation guidelines. These guidelines include an emphasis on the cleaning of high frequency touch points and surfaces. Our cleaner, Zoran, is onsite each day wiping down the high frequency touch points both in the classroom and across the school e.g. the library. Steve, our Building Services Officer, is also regularly cleaning and wiping down the play equipment throughout the day.

Prolonged absence:

If you are choosing to keep your child home beyond Monday 18 May please email your child's class teacher or info.NECS@ed.act.edu.au to inform us of your intentions. We require this information to complete class rolls.

Events at school:

Until further notice we will not conduct school assemblies, engage in sporting clinics with outside agencies or plan excursions. We will await further advice from the Education Directorate and the Chief Health Officer before engaging in these additional events.

Below is a flyer from the Education Directorate sharing some information about returning to the classroom.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/339/back_to_the_classroom_flyer.pdf

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are excited to have the children back at school and are looking forward to a productive and engaging term 2.

Kind Regards

Julie

Grass Parrots

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/403/grass_parrots_newsletter_w4_t2.pdf

Kangaroos

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/404/kangaroo_s_newsletter_term_2_week_4.pdf

Voluntary Contributions

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/405/voluntary_contributions_2020.pdf

2021 Enrolments

Online enrolments are now open for the 2021 school year. If your child is currently enrolled in preschool at NECS their enrolment will 'roll over' to kindergarten at NECS in 2021.

It is important that all of our year 2 families complete an online enrolment form if you are planning on enrolling in an ACT Public School. It is highly recommended that you complete an enrolment BEFORE 5 June. You can use the link below to complete the online enrolment process.

<https://form.act.gov.au/smartforms/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=1087>

Enrolment applications made between 28 April 2020 and 5 June 2020 will receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Applications made after 5 June will receive their offers later in the year.

There are many benefits to being enrolled at an Early Childhood School. The Early Childhood Schools were created as a result of research that found there were many benefits to delaying a child's transition until they are 8 years old (year 3). Research shows that children are more resilient, are more confident and have better developed learning behaviours to manage a transition at eight years of age versus at age five.

If you would like to discuss any enrolment issues please don't hesitate to email info.NECS@ed.act.edu.au or give us a call on 6142 3828.



The flyer features a photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, wearing hats and engaged in a craft activity with pink clay. The background is a bright, outdoor setting. The text is set against a red background on the right side of the flyer.

ACT Education

If your child turns four on or before 30 April 2020, they were able to start preschool in Term 1, 2020. **If your child turns four after 30 April 2020, they can start preschool in 2021**

All four year old ACT children are guaranteed a place in a public preschool. However, you are not guaranteed a place at the preschool site of your preference, due to capacity constraints at some sites. All preschools offer a high-quality early childhood education.

Enrolments for 2021 open from 6am on Tuesday 28 April. Apply before 5 June 2020 to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Apply online at education.act.gov.au

Enrolling in Preschool in 2021



2021 school enrolments now open

ACT Education

- 1. Go to education.act.gov.au** for information on your local school and to enrol online.
- 2. Apply before 5 June 2020** to receive an offer from 27 July 2020. This means there is ample time to submit your application to be included in the initial round of offers.

Critical Thinking Skills

Attached below is a small article outlining seven easy and play based games to boost your preschool child's critical thinking skills. We use critical thinking skills every day. They help us to make good decisions, understand the consequences of our actions and solve problems. These incredibly important skills are used in everything from putting together puzzles to mapping out the best route to work. It's the process of using focus and self-control to solve problems and set and follow through on goals. Critical thinking helps us make good, sound decisions. The tips in the article below can be used for children of all ages.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/337/critical_thinking_skills.pdf

Communities at Work

During our indoor learning experiences, our toddlers enhance their language, cognitive and speech development by looking at picture books, trying to identify the names of the sea creatures that are displayed on the wall. In addition to these experiences, our children were given the opportunity to match the small animals in the tray to the pictures provided. Some of the children enjoyed fixing large alphabet puzzles, while others played with baby dolls pretending to be doctors and using medical instruments to examine their patients. These experiences enhance their problem-solving, visual scanning, fine motor, and caring abilities.

While outdoors, they participated in a variety of activities such as walking on the stepping stones, drawing with crayons and playing in the sand pit. By engaging in these experiences, the toddlers were able to extend on their gross motor, body balance, creativity and imagination skills.



Self-regulation in young children

As we return from what has been a turbulent and stressful period in our lives I thought it might be timely to include some information about self-regulation. Self-regulation is the ability to understand and manage your behaviour and your reactions to feelings and things happening around you. Our little people have experienced quite a long period of time at home, under difficult circumstances. We hope you find the following information from the Raising Children website helpful.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/understanding-behaviour/self-regulation>

Transport Canberra

Over the coming weeks children will start to return to the classroom. All bus and light rail services, including special needs transport, are operating as normal.

To keep our community safe from #COVID19, only use public transport if necessary or consider walking or riding to school for those shorter trips.

The safety of our drivers and our customers is our highest priority and in response to #COVID19 increased cleaning is taking place across all areas of public transport including at stops, stations and within the vehicles.

If you are required to use public transport to get to and from school, please be aware and remember the following:

- No cash accepted on buses - please use MyWay
- Top up (and register) your MyWay card
- Use the rear door to enter and exit on buses
- Be aware that light rail vehicles have auto doors opening at all stops
- Where possible maintain physical distancing

- No front seat access on buses
- Always practice good hygiene

For more: <https://bit.ly/2Ws5mZs>