



Early Childhood Education Weekly Update

4 February 2022

Dear services and providers,

Happy Friday!

We hope you have enjoyed having children back at your service over the past weeks as your operations have resumed.

We acknowledge the current COVID-19 situation is challenging, and we will continue to provide regular COVID-19 updates during this time.

What you need to know this week:

- Early Childhood Digital Learning Packs now available to support families and services
- COVID-19 support for culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Child Safe Training free for services
- Child Safe Standards resources now online
- NESAs Teacher Accreditation updates to support services navigating workforce shortages
- March 2022 Preschool census coming soon

Sector wide updates

Early childhood Digital Learning Packs

The [early childhood guided learning packages](#) are now available.

The packs provide easy-to-use timetabled activities for families to support continuity of learning for children who are unable to attend their usual early childhood service.

The activities all have a learning goal and link to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.

Two weeks' worth of timetabled learning activities will be published each fortnight throughout Term 1.

What you should do next

Access the available [Kangaroo and Emu packs](#).

More information

Visit COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC services [support and resources webpage](#).

COVID-19 support for culturally and linguistically diverse communities

Services can use the following to assist in communicating with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

- [Rapid Antigen Tests](#)
- [Booster vaccination](#)
- [Vaccinations for 5 to 11 year-olds](#)
- [Videos on managing COVID-19 at home](#)

What you should do next

Share the resources with families.

More information

Visit COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC services [support and resources webpage](#).

Child Safe Training

The Office of the Children's Guardian is running [free child safe training session](#) for educators to gain an understanding of the protective behaviours program.

After attending a training session, educators will receive free resources including the SAFE Series books, animations and ebooks, to help them deliver the program.

A number of free online webinars will be held throughout February, including an outside of hours session for Family Day Care services on 10 February.

What you should do next

Book to attend a [SAFE Series webinar](#).

More information

Visit the [Child Safe e-Learning webpage](#).

Child Safe Standards resources

The Office of the Children's Guardian is providing more resources on the Child Safe Standards to support organisations working with children to create, maintain and improve their child safe practices.

What you should do next

Watch the [Child Safe Standards and the Child Safe Scheme video](#).

More information

Visit the [Child Safe Standards webpage](#) for more resources.

NESA Teacher Accreditation

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has provided new advice on Teacher Accreditations due to COVID-related shortages across ECE services and schools.

Extensions

NESA are providing extensions to complete [Proficient Teacher](#) or [maintenance of accreditation](#) requirements.

An automatic extension until 1 July 2022 applies if you are:

- overdue or due in Term 1 or Term 2, 2022 (including due dates up to 30 June 2022)
- an early childhood teacher whose maintenance of accreditation was due on 17 July 2021 and were previously granted an extension until 4 March 2022.

Observations of practice: Proficient Teacher

NESA will consider requests for face-to-face observations of practice on a case-by-case basis for early childhood teachers working towards Proficient Teacher.

NESA requires approval from the service director or provider representative before assessing the request, or can support a recorded observation.

What you should do next

Early childhood teachers can send their requests for face-to-face observations and recorded observations to ECTaccreditation@nesa.nsw.edu.au.

More information

Visit NESA's [Teacher Accreditation webpage](#).

Community and Mobile Preschool Reminders

March 2022 Preschool Census

We will be collecting enrolment data from 7-18 March 2022, especially given the impact of COVID-19 in 2021.

All NSW Government funded community preschools including mobile preschools are required to complete the March 2022 Preschool Census, in addition to the usual census

undertaken in August every year.

The March census will capture current data for the department and enable us to review the impact of COVID-19 on enrolments and attendance.

The department will use enrolment data collected in March to review the Start Strong Free Preschool funding allocations. Your service's Start Strong Free Preschool funding will be based on whichever is higher between August 2021 and March 2022 enrolments.

We will collect operational and child-level data, including enrolment days and fees, but will not collect staff information.

We will also be collecting attendance data for a longer 4-week period starting 7 March, including arrival and departure times for every child for each attended day.

It is not compulsory to submit attendance data as part of this Preschool Census, however with a focus on attendance as part of the [Preschool Reform Agreement](#), we strongly encourage you to submit this data to increase our understanding of preschool attendance in NSW.

As with previous years, there are some steps you will need to complete to prepare. Ideally these steps should be completed before the Census opens.

What you should do next

- Ensure you are able to log in to the Early Childhood Contract Management System (ECCMS) and that all your service details are up to date.
- Keep an eye out for more information on the March 2022 Preschool Census in the coming weeks.

More information

Visit the [Annual Preschool Census page](#).

For more information

If you have any questions about your service operation you can contact the Information and Enquiries team on 1800 619 113 or by emailing ececd@det.nsw.edu.au.

For the latest COVID-19 advice please visit the [COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC services](#).



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Sent to all services and providers in NSW

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