

RE: ELSA Pilot 2018: First steps

Welcome back to 2018! I trust you have had a restful break and, like all of us on the ELSA team, are looking forward to an exciting year ahead in introducing ELSA to your preschool service. We hope that the input, experiences and networking you had at the ELSA workshop late last year have continued to inspire and inform your thinking and planning for your participation in the ELSA pilot in 2018.

I have recently joined the ELSA team to support you to implement the ELSA pilot and I will now be your primary contact. I met some of you at the Brisbane workshop and look forward to working with you all.

In coming weeks I will be emailing information and suggestions about what you can expect in the lead up to the launch of the first children's app and the Educator app how to make the most of your ELSA experience.

This email is to provide you with further information to facilitate your participation in the ELSA Pilot.

The ELSA elves have been busy working over the holidays to ensure the first ELSA children's app, Patterns and Relationships, and the Educator app, are ready for use. They are looking fantastic and the team can't wait to share these with you.

As states and territories start the new preschool year on different dates and there are a number of important processes that need to be in place prior to working with the apps, February will be a month of orientation for the ELSA pilot. This will provide educators with time to settle in the new cohort of children, inform parents about the ELSA pilot, obtain parental consent, select avatars and revisit the concept of STEM Practices that we covered over the two day workshops.

Below are a number of important items I'd like to share with you about preparing for your preschool service's participation in the ELSA pilot.

Educator app approved user list

To ensure all educators at your preschool service participating in the ELSA pilot have access to the apps, we have asked your preschool service director to add you and other educators participating in the pilot to an approved user list. Your director will have provided us with your:

- full name

- email address (this can be a personal email if preferred)
- mobile phone number
- role within the preschool service.

Educator consent forms

Once we have received your information from your director, we will send you a consent form. Each individual educator who wishes to participate in the ELSA pilot will need to return this. If you don't receive this please follow up with your director in the first instance to make sure they've provided your most recent contact details.

What's coming up?

Prior to the launch of the apps, please keep an eye on your inbox for:

- information on the relaunch of the ELSA website, which will have lots of resources including all the presentations and videos from the ELSA workshops last year (which will provide a useful review for all who attended a workshop and will be especially helpful for the educators who were unable to attend a workshop).
- tips for communicating with parents about the ELSA Pilot and the process of consent forms
- off-app activities you might like to try with your class that are based on STEM Practices
- onboarding information and instructions so you can get the most out of the apps quickly and easily once they are launched.

Tell us

Has anyone kept in contact with the people you met at the workshops last year? I'd love to hear your stories. Perhaps you've met for coffee or have shared some programming ideas – let me know by return email!

We are very much looking forward to continuing to build the ELSA community of practice and welcome your suggestions.

Once again, thank you for being part of the ELSA Pilot. If you have any comments, questions or concerns please contact me at team@elsa.edu.au

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