

RE: ELSA pilot 2018: Consent forms and resources

Welcome to all ELSA Pilot educators!

Thanks to centre directors for sending through the names of educators taking part in the ELSA Pilot at your preschool. It is exciting to see the ELSA community grow!

I have a few requests this week, as well as some revision of what was covered in the workshops last year. We appreciate your time is valuable, but to make the most of your ELSA experience, please read this email carefully.

App release

We're excited about the upcoming release of the ELSA apps. We hope you are too!

As indicated in our earlier 'welcome back' email, February will be an orientation month for the ELSA pilot. This will allow for lead-in time for you to develop class routines with your new cohort of children, set up the required consent for children's participation and recap some of the important themes we addressed in the educator workshops including use the ELSA Pilot's off-app activities with your class.

We will let you know when the *ELSA App 1: Patterns and relationships* for children and educators will be released very soon.

Consent form for educators

Remember - Each educator who wishes to participate in the ELSA pilot needs to provide us with a signed consent form. If you haven't already, please fill out and submit the [educator consent form](#).

Consent form for children

Each child participating in the pilot will need a consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Please email this link to families taking part in the pilot:

https://canberraelsa.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WPKxaTdCB8K3pr

If families do not have access to the internet, you might consider giving them the option to complete the form while they are picking up/dropping off their child.

If these options are not possible for you, please contact us to discuss how we can help.

Device survey

Please help us make sure the apps run as smoothly as possible by completing this short survey about the type of tablet you will use to take part in the ELSA Pilot.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete:

https://canberraelsa.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ebNo8FQuZXVAUPr

Recapping the 2017 workshops

To help you get the most out of your ELSA Pilot experience, here is a quick recap of some of the important themes we covered in last year's workshops.

If you are new to ELSA, we will provide you with more information over the coming weeks so you can get the most out of participating in the ELSA Pilot.

The video below gives an overview of ELSA and some of the pilot's key concepts.

[insert video – parent video from Caroline if animations aren't ready yet?]

If you attended the 2017 workshops, please share your ideas and experiences with other educators involved in the pilot at your preschool service. If you didn't attend the workshops, it's important you understand some of the key ideas, such as STEM practices and 'questioning'.

STEM practices

You might be surprised to realise how much STEM you already do in your preschool! The ELSA Pilot builds on these STEM frameworks in early childhood education. But instead of teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics discreetly, ELSA will help to provide you with a shared language you can use with other educators and help you explore STEM practices through ideas, methods and values. These include things like designing and building, generating ideas, curiosity and questioning.

Remember, you don't have to cover every STEM practice at once. Pick one or two STEM practices to focus on when you plan an activity with your children.

[Click here to watch Prof Tom Lowrie discuss STEM Practices.](#)

Questioning

'What' questions can help children notice and describe what they are seeing and doing, instead of struggling to answer a 'why' question they don't know the answer to.

[This short clip explains good questioning techniques.](#)

Stay tuned

Next week we will provide you with more resources to consolidate your understanding of STEM practices. This will include some activities to help you prepare for the first children's app – Patterns and Relationships.

As always, if you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact us – we are here to help you.