

What is happening with the renovations?

Refurbishments at the Early Childhood Schools will enable a seamless integration of services, creating a hub where families can access a comprehensive array of programs that build family and community connectedness and support children's early learning and development.

Is the Coopertive School an Early Childhood School?

The O'Connor Cooperative School has been operating since 1978 and is committed to excellence in early childhood education. As an existing Early Childhood School the Cooperative School provides a strong foundation for children's learning and development.



How do I enrol my child?

All Early Childhood Schools are enrolling now. By enrolling at an Early Childhood School, you can ensure an integrated and seamless learning environment for your child from birth to eight years of age. Information regarding enrolment in child care, preschool, kindergarten, year one and year two can be obtained by contacting the respective school:

Southern Cross Early Childhood School

Wirraway Crescent
Scullin ACT 2614
(02) 6205 8177

Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Kootara Crescent
Narrabundah ACT 2604
(02) 6205 7077

Lyons Early Childhood School

Tarraleah Crescent
Lyons ACT 2606
(02) 6205 5700

Isabella Plains Early Childhood School

Ellerston Avenue
Isabella Plains ACT 2905
(02) 6205 7688

O'Connor Cooperative School

Macpherson Street
O'Connor ACT 2602
(02) 6205 6340



Who are C&K?

C&K is one of Australia's oldest and most respected early childhood organisations and have been selected to provide long day care, before and after school care and vacation care for the new Early Childhood Schools.



C&K is committed to providing quality education and care for your child's pre-schooling years (from birth to school age) in an environment – both inside and outside – that enables children to explore, satisfy their inquisitive nature and grow as individuals. Independent research indicates that children who have enjoyed a C&K early learning experience are the most successful in their first years of schooling. To find out more about C&K phone 1800 177 092 or visit www.candk.asn.au



Education and Training

Early Childhood Schools



ACT Public Schools *So much more to offer*

Message from the Minister

The ACT Government is committed to giving Canberra's children the best start in life.



With increasing recognition throughout the world of the important role education plays in children's early years, our new Early Childhood Schools are an important part of this commitment. These new schools, as hubs within their communities, provide services to better support local families. The high quality early learning programs they deliver are backed by a range of new family and child services, and links to existing services, to better meet the needs of children and their families.

The schools and associated family services provide high quality early education to Canberra's children. I encourage you to make contact with your nearest Early Childhood School and have a look at what is on offer for your family.

These schools are an exciting addition to public education provision in the ACT and an innovative approach to supporting families with young children.

Andrew Barr

Minister for Education and Training
Minister for Children and Young People

Early Childhood Schools

All of a child's experiences with their family members, other children and adults they meet while in care or at home contribute to their learning. Children require quality, nurturing early learning experiences as they are the foundation for healthy brain development, positive social relationships and to enable each child to reach their potential.

Early Childhood Schools that operate as early learning and development centres offer continuity for children in both their learning and relationships. Curriculum and teaching will be guided by the latest educational and social research into quality early childhood learning.

ACT public schools are leading the nation in providing families with innovative, contemporary approaches to learning. Five Early Childhood Schools are available to Canberra families. The new Early Childhood Schools are located in Lyons, Isabella Plains, Narrabundah and Southern Cross (Scullin) and will operate as early learning and development centres providing integrated services for children (birth to eight years) and their families. O'Connor Cooperative School provides a Preschool to Year 2 school program.

“Nurturing and responsive relationships build healthy brain architecture that provides a strong foundation for learning, behaviour and health throughout life.”

Professor Frank Obkerlaid (May 2007)

Frequently asked questions

What teaching and learning programs are offered by the Early Childhood Schools?

The Early Childhood Schools operate as a school with a Principal, qualified teachers and education support staff. The education component (preschool to year 2) encourages learning through play and will be supported by the early childhood band of the ACT Curriculum Framework, Every Chance to Learn. All students will benefit from the additional learning and development programs and support services available at the Early Childhood School.



What services will be available at the Early Childhood School?

A range of services will support families and their child's learning, health and well-being. These may include: long day care; before and after school child care for children in preschool to year 2; vacation care; parenting programs and support groups; targeted playgroups; health programs such as maternal and child health clinics; immunisation; physiotherapy; and speech therapy services.

What will happen when my child reaches year 3?

Children who complete year 2 at the Early Childhood Schools will be well equipped for transition to the next stage of their schooling. Children from Early Childhood Schools will be able to access the public school in the Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) identified for their residence. They will also have access to an out-of-area school in a suburb near the Early Childhood School if the school has vacancies.

