

NT Learning Commitment



Home Learning Guide

Welcome

This Preschool Home Learning Pack contains some guidance for families. It provides some advice, suggestions and ideas for things families could do while at home to help keep their pre-schoolers engaged in learning.

This pack complements the Learning Together Activity Placemats available on the NT Department of Education Learning Together: Families and Schools website:

<https://nt.gov.au/learning/learning-together>

Please remember there is no expectation to do all of these activities.

Children and families are encouraged to try things they might like to do, when they can, while still having time for other fun opportunities for learning and relaxing together while at home.

Useful Tips for Families

You can provide support for your child by:

- Trying to keep daily routines as normal as possible. Such as wake-up and bedtimes (see more tips below).
- Ensuring there is a space for your child to play and learn
- Talking with your child about what they will be doing each day and reflect at the end of each day about how it all went
- Talking with your child about what they are playing and learning. This can help them learn new language and concepts
- Keeping in touch with the school and teachers as needed
- Taking some time to enjoy playing with your child. If they see you engaged and relaxed, this may help reduce their stress.
- Helping your child stay connected with family and friends e.g. video chats, emails, drawings
- Remembering that screen time for children aged 2 to 5 years old is 1 hour each day with no more than 30 minutes at a time.

It is okay to make a mess! 😊

Children learn to tidy up and pack away activities after themselves while at preschool – this a great skill to keep practicing at home as well.

Establishing routines and expectations

Set up *Preschool at Home* routines that are easy to keep but can be flexible.

Things might change from day to day; work with these changes, not against them.

Your school might provide you with a guide or timetable for your child's day. Try to keep to these but don't put stress on you or child if you can't.

Important things to remember to include each day are:

- regular breaks for eating and drinking
- activity breaks - it is important for your child to get up and move around

Communication with your school and teachers

Remember to talk to your child's school about when and how you will stay in touch with the school and your child's teacher. Remember things won't always go to plan, and that's ok. Enjoy your time together and have fun!

Learning through Play



*“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.”
O. Fred Donaldson*

The Australian Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) explains that “play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. When children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other’s thinking and build new understandings. Play provides a supportive environment where children can ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking. Play can expand children’s thinking and enhance their desire to know and to learn. In these ways play can promote positive dispositions towards learning. Children’s immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being.” (EYLF, 2009)

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning.”

Mr. Rogers

Play is important because it means children are...

exploring, talking, thinking, trying, imagining, daydreaming, inventing, challenging, risk taking, giving, sharing, making choices, taking turns, working, relaxing, pausing, running, skipping, jumping, shouting, whispering, singing, making friends, being themselves, being someone else, role playing, acting, caring, negotiating, reading, writing, counting, measuring, trying things out, feeling, leading, following, problem solving, storytelling, building, laughing, smiling... *learning.*



The Value of Questions

Questioning is a powerful way to engage with children during their learning.

Asking open-ended questions to children allows them to develop and explain their thinking and theories about the world around them. Some questions you might like to ask your child while they are playing are:

What can you tell me about it?

How do you know?

What makes you think that?

Tell me more about ...

How could you/we find out?

It's important to also listen to and answer the questions your child may be asking you.

This is their way of finding out, making discoveries and learning new things.

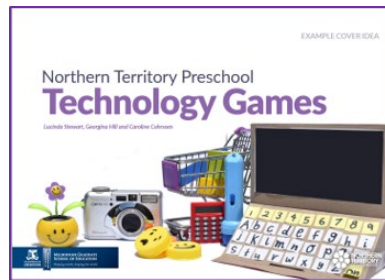
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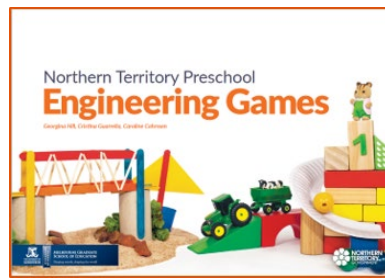
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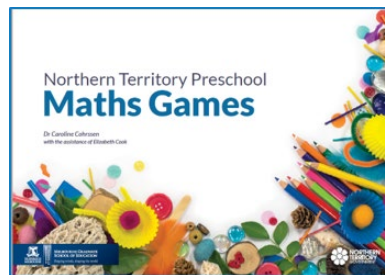
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<https://education.nt.gov.au/support-for-teachers/preschool-stem-games>