



Preschool Outcomes Measure National Tool Pilot

Plain Language Statement for Parents and Carers

Your child's preschool is participating in the pilot of the Preschool Outcomes Measure (POM) National Tool in Terms 3 and 4. The POM National Tool is a new resource to help teachers and educators understand and support your child's learning progress in oral language and literacy and executive function (everyday problem solving) in the year before full-time school.

The POM National Tool helps teachers plan learning experiences that are a good fit for your child, to support their development of important skills. It might support the conversations teachers and educators have with you about your child's strengths and progress. The pilot lets teachers and educators use the POM National Tool with children and give feedback to improve it.

The POM National Tool can be used with children of all cultural backgrounds and abilities, including children with disability or developmental concerns, children who speak a home language other than English, and children who speak Aboriginal English. The tool is designed to help teachers understand children's current strengths. It is not a test and will not be used to compare your child to others.

The Preschool Outcomes Measure National Tool is an initiative of the Australian and state and territory governments. The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) is leading the pilot, in partnership with Goodstart Early Learning and Ninti One.

What will happen during the pilot?

Your child may be asked to complete a series of short learning activities. The activities will be similar to what your child does during regular play or other preschool activities. We have found that children typically find these activities fun and interesting. The short activities will take about an hour in total, spread over a few days or weeks.

Your child's teacher will also observe your child's learning and development. They will record their observations using a digital tablet.

Participation in the activities will be led by your child. They can choose not to participate, and they can stop at any time.

Choosing not to participate will not affect your child's learning or experience in the preschool program.

Will I receive feedback about my child's learning?

Your child's teacher or educator may share a summary of your child's learning with you after they use the POM National Tool. They may talk with you about your child's strengths and ways your child can be supported in areas they are still developing.



Protecting your child's data and privacy

When using the POM National Tool, your child's teacher will record information about your child (for example, name, date of birth, languages spoken, First Nations status, and whether there are any known developmental concerns) and their learning. They will use your child's name to label the information to help them plan their teaching.

Information that identifies your child, including their assessment outcomes, will only be seen by authorised preschool staff (e.g. the child's teacher) and authorised ACER researchers who are providing technical support to preschools.

Information collected during the pilot will only be used to improve the POM National Tool. Any information shared outside ACER for research purposes (including aggregate assessment outcomes for all children) will not include your child's name. It will not be used to rank your child or their preschool or teacher or to make decisions about funding. It will not be used in any decisions about your child's enrolment or child protection.

Next steps

If you are happy for your child to participate in the pilot and for ACER to collect and handle information about your child as described in this statement, you do not need to do anything.

Your child's participation is voluntary. If you DO NOT WANT your child to participate, please return the provided opt-out form to your child's teacher. They will make sure your child is not included in the pilot activities and no information will be collected about your child.

If you don't opt out now, you can still withdraw your child from the pilot later. To withdraw your child later, let your preschool or school know. They will arrange for your child's data to be deleted. Once your child's information has been removed, you will receive confirmation.

What if I have questions or concerns?

Your child's teacher or educator can provide more information about the pilot. You can also contact ACER at preschool.support@acer.org.

You can ask to access personal information held about your child and ask ACER to correct personal information. See ACER's privacy policy at www.acer.org/privacy.

ACER's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project (reference HREC-0363). If you have any questions about this process, contact Sarah Buckley, Chair of the ACER HREC at 03 9277 5475 or hrec@acer.org.



Preschool Outcomes Measure Pilot

Opt-Out Form

I DO NOT wish my child to participate in the Preschool Outcomes Measure National Tool pilot.

My child's name:

My name:

Parent/Carer Signature:

Date:

You only need to complete this form if you do NOT wish your child to participate.

Please return this completed 'Opt-out form' to your child's teacher.