

INFORMATION SHEET

HOME EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND TEACHING AND LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

Home education requires parents to accept responsibility for planning, teaching, assessing, recording and evaluating a teaching and learning plan for each child. Consideration must be given to each of the following curriculum and teaching and learning planning requirements when undertaking to home educate.

WHAT IS A CURRICULUM?

A curriculum describes the knowledge, skills and capabilities that a child is expected to demonstrate in a developmental sequence. It supports a child to develop the capacity to think creatively, innovate, solve problems and engage with new disciplines. A curriculum includes the content and the learning standards or outcomes that children are expected to demonstrate.

The curriculum is used to inform:

- the units and lessons that are to be taught
- the assignments and projects that children complete, as well as assessment tasks
- the methods or tools that are used to monitor the child's progress towards the learning standards and form an on-balance judgement to describe the level of the child's achievement.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The department recommends that parents use the [Australian Curriculum](#) to find the curriculum and achievement standards appropriate for their child's year level to develop their child's home education program.

The *Education Act* requires that the curriculum used in a home education program must be one that is approved by the [Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority \(ACARA\)](#).

An exemption from using an ACARA approved curriculum may be granted where special circumstances exist. Special circumstances may include accommodations for a child with disability or special support needs, or a family temporarily living in Australia who wish to continue using the curriculum program of their home country during their residency.

Where parents wish to seek an exemption, details of the special circumstances must be provided in the [Home Education Application Form](#) along with supporting documentation to inform the department's decision.

WHAT ARE RESOURCES, MATERIALS AND FACILITIES?

Curriculum resources, materials and facilities support the delivery of the curriculum and a child's ability to understand and explore new concepts. The home education application should provide details regarding the resources, materials and facilities that will be used to support the curriculum delivery. Some examples may include:

Resources	Materials	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• referencing items (e.g. dictionaries and encyclopedias)• library texts (e.g. picture books, novels and readers)• technology (e.g. internet access, computer hardware and software)• text books• films and media• performances, exhibitions and excursions• worksheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• writing materials (e.g. pens, paper, ruler)• art materials (e.g. paints, glue, scissors, textiles)• counters and scales• calculators• microscopes• science equipment (e.g. test tubes and beacons, batteries),• sport equipment (e.g. balls, cricket set)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sport oval• swimming pool• music hall• dance studio• trampoline

DEVELOPING A TEACHING AND LEARNING PLAN

A teaching and learning plan is developed with consideration of the child's age, ability, aptitude and development. A teaching and learning plan provides the following details for each learning area:

- the knowledge and skills to be learned
- how understandings and skills will be assessed
- what resources, materials and facilities will be used, and
- teaching and learning time allocations.

The [Home Education Application Form](#) guides parents through the development of a teaching and learning plan. Sufficient detail must be provided to enable the department to determine that the proposed home education is appropriate for the child.

ASSESSING AND RECORDING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

Parents must assess their child's progress and achievement across all learning areas as a part of the home education program. Parents are expected to use and record a

range of assessment opportunities to monitor their child's progress and inform their teaching strategies.

A child's progress and achievement is measured against the curriculum and may be demonstrated in a number of ways including:

- draft notes on a report, story, letter or other project
- dated writing samples which show progress over time
- test results which show progress
- research projects: planning, note-taking, draft writing, editing and final presentation
- a diary or other records of the activities where learning achievements have occurred including PowerPoint presentations, photography, internet searches
- progress and/or test results from online learning programs.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

Parents may also choose to have their child participate in NAPLAN by indicating their participating on the [Home Education Application Form](#). This will provide parents with a snapshot of their child's literacy and numeracy capabilities and a comparison against the national average.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Parents are required to provide an appropriate learning space and environment for home education to be conducted. This encompasses both a well-lit, and ventilated space for the student to work in, and the absence of interruptions to the child's learning. Every child requires:

- a desk and learning space
- learning resources and materials
- an area to store and display work
- computer and internet access.

Additionally, the child should be provided with or have access to outdoor learning facilities, particularly in relation to fitness and physical education activities.

TEACHER REGISTRATION AND WORKING WITH CHILDREN CLEARANCE

Parents may choose to employ a teacher to develop and deliver all or part of the teaching and learning plan. Parents must ensure that any teacher conducting the home education is registered with the [Northern Territory Teacher Registration Board](#).

Additionally, where a teacher, tutor or instructor is employed to deliver all or part of a teaching and learning plan or specific learning area, parents must observe the requirements of the [Northern Territory Care and Protection of Children Act](#) by ensuring that the person holds a current [Working with Children Clearance](#).