

CONTENT FOR PARENT PEAK BODIES – APRIL 2020

ACARA'S COMPILATION OF TEACHING FROM HOME RESOURCES

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in large numbers of Australian students learning from home, with many parents and carers keen for resources to support them in this task.

As ACARA CEO David de Carvalho noted [in a recent opinion piece](#), “Many parents of school-age children are now dealing with a new reality, trying to keep their children engaged in learning while not having the professional skills that trained teachers bring to that complex and vitally important task.”

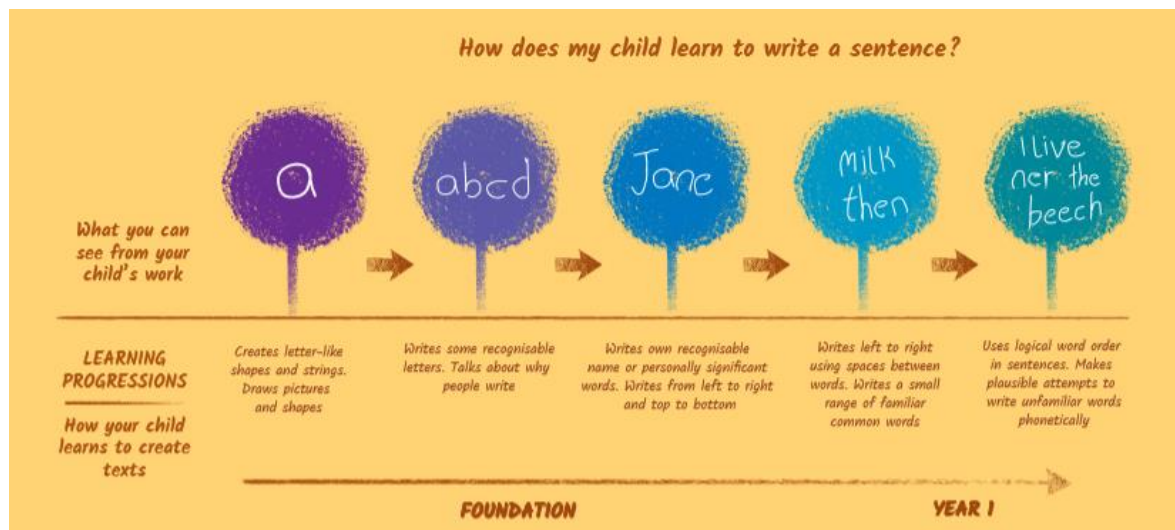
“Government education departments, Catholic school systems and independent schools have been working with remarkable speed and intensity to put in place or ramp up online learning mechanisms to help. They are preparing high-quality learning materials, linked to the Australian Curriculum, which help parents to keep their children engaged in learning under these most unusual circumstances.”

ACARA has compiled a range of resources and links to support parents/carers at this unique time:

- Find an [overview \(PDF 1.5 mb\)](#) of how the Australian Curriculum is organised, explaining how the learning areas (subjects), general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities work together to form the Australian Curriculum.
- Find quick guides to what children will learn at each stage of their schooling:
 - [Foundation \(Kindergarten or equivalent\) \(PDF 1.6 mb\)](#)
 - [Years 1–2 \(PDF 1.2 mb\)](#)
 - [Years 3–4 \(PDF 1.4 mb\)](#)
 - [Years 5–6 \(PDF 1.4 mb\)](#)
 - [Years 7–8 \(PDF 1.5 mb\)](#)
 - [Years 9–10 \(PDF 1.5 mb\)](#)



- [ACARA's computational thinking parent resources \(PDF 2 mb\)](#) include printable cards with activity ideas to support children in Foundation – Year 2 in finding opportunities to apply computational thinking in their everyday life.
- The national literacy and numeracy learning progressions are a resource that describes how literacy and numeracy learning develops over time. Explore this with a [guide to the progressions for parents](#).



The full Australian Curriculum and related resources are published online, they provide accessibility for all users; however, it is important to note that the Australian Curriculum itself has been written for *teachers*, with the '[Parent information](#)' section a streamlined version of this.

NAPLAN resources

Previous years' NAPLAN test papers are [available](#) (up to 2016), as well as the [NAPLAN Online public demonstration site](#) if parents and children wish to use these resources as an activity while at home.

Parent Update

ACARA's [Parent Update newsletter](#) is a monthly e-newsletter that brings national education news about national assessment, curriculum and *My School* news to parents.

Other parent and carer resources

- **Education departments:** Parents and carers can visit the websites of the state/territory education departments that have resources for learning from home: [New South Wales](#), [Queensland](#), [South Australia](#), [Tasmania](#), [Victoria](#), the [Northern Territory](#), the [ACT](#) and [Western Australia](#). Some education sectors and individual schools will also have resources for home learning.
- [ABC Education](#) provides access to more than 4,000 free videos, interactive resources and games mapped to the Australian curriculum – across subjects such as English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Media Literacy, Financial Literacy, The Arts, and Technologies, including STEM.

From Tuesday 14 April, the ABC extended its educational programming on [ABC ME](#) to support children and caregivers at home, from 10am to 3pm each weekday. The expanded schedule moves from blocks of primary school content in the mornings through to secondary school content in the afternoons, featuring programs such as Behind the News (BTN), Ecomaths, ScienceXplosion, Numberblocks, Citizen Code and English on the Go.

- **The e-Safety Commissioner** has developed a range of resources described in an [Open letter to Australia's parents and carers](#). The [eSafety guide](#) has new information on [Zoom](#) and the [Houseparty app](#). In April and May, they will be running live [parent webinars](#).
- **The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership's (AITSL) Spotlight:** Designed primarily for teachers, [this research](#) identifies best practice evidence to guide teachers on setting up online learning and advice teachers can give to parents during this

process. Key consideration is given to principles demonstrated to benefit student outcomes and wellbeing.

2020 NAPLAN CANCELLED – PARENTS’ QUESTIONS ANSWERED

On Friday 20 March, education ministers decided that in light of the impact of COVID-19, NAPLAN would not proceed for 2020. Many parents have questions about what this means for their families, and ACARA have addressed these via a set of [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

HOW TO BE A GREAT TEACHER

Parents grappling with the demands of schooling at home may have found themselves wondering lately; “what makes a great teacher?”. ACARA’s CEO David de Carvalho addresses this in [Teacher Magazine](#), putting forward five qualities that distinguish great teachers from good ones:

1. Being open to learning and improvement
2. Providing respectful, structured learning environments
3. Having subject knowledge and passion
4. Inspiring questions and ‘fanning the flames of wonder’
5. Understanding the wider purposes of education

ACARA CEO David de Carvalho: “Developing in students a commitment to thoughtful, honest, purposeful human agency, respectful of others and embracing the common concerns of one’s communities, this is the wider objective of the calling of a teacher: to help young people come to know themselves and the power they have to change the world”.