



Supporting your child's education

An information sheet for migrant and refugee parents of school aged children in the ACT

General Information

There are a few simple things that you can do to support your child's education:

- Make sure your child attends school every day (except when sick).
- Get involved with your child's school as much as you can.
- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher.
- Help your child to do their homework. Allow adequate time and a good working space for homework weekly.
- The Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services (MARSS) provide a free homework program (PASS) for high school students. **Phone (02) 6248 8577** to register.
- For younger children, read to them daily and listen to them read when they are old enough – in either English or your language, both will help with learning the valuable skill of reading.
- Preschool is free for all four year old children in Canberra and migrant and refugee children are sometimes able to start at three and a half years of age. Check with your local preschool.

Getting involved with your child's school

There are many ways you can get involved and build a good relationship with your child's school:

- All parents and carers are always welcome at their children's school. Call the school's Front Office if you have any questions about the school. Remember to keep and record school's telephone number each year.
- Have an informal chat with the teacher and other parents at school drop-off and pick-up time.
- Go to parent/teacher nights where you can ask questions and raise concerns with your child's teacher. You may bring a friend or relative with you for support.
- You can ask the school to provide an interpreter for the parent/teacher meeting too.

- Help at the school canteen, or in the library, with the school fete, working bees etc.
- Help in the classroom – ask your child's teacher what they could use help with. This could be help tidying up or sharing a skill you have.
- Go on class excursions if you can with permission from the school.
- Attend the P&C (Parents and Citizens Association) meetings – you can even bring a friend with you. All parents are welcome and encouraged to come to the P&C meetings.

If there is a problem

- If you would like to use an interpreter to help you communicate your concerns to the school, the school can book a free interpreter from the **Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)**. **Phone 131 450**
- Talk to either your child's teacher or the English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) teacher if one is available.
- You, or the school, may decide to involve the year coordinator, senior teacher, deputy principal or principal to help as well, depending on the nature of the problem.
- You can contact the school counsellor for help at any time. Their contact information will be available from the school's front office or website or Newsletter.
- If you still need further help you can contact another Community Service to help advocate for you – for example **Companion House**. **Phone: (02) 6251 4550**
- If you need further information about the role of parents in schooling in the ACT, contact **ACT P&C Council**. **Phone: (02) 6241 5759**

**If you have a problem just ask for help.
Teachers at the school want to help.**