



Australian Government

Department of Education and Training

Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) Programme 2016 Participation Guidelines

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1. Purpose of these Guidelines

The purpose of these Participation Guidelines is to provide advice on eligibility and programme requirements to services seeking to participate in the ELLA programme in 2016. These participation guidelines are applicable for ongoing services part of the 2015 trial and new services joining the programme on an 'Opt in', Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), basis in 2016 and should be read in conjunction with the information contained on the [ELLA homepage](#) found at: www.education.gov.au/early-learning-languages-australia/.

2. Overview

The Australian Government is committed to reviving the teaching of languages in Australia with the goal of at least 40 per cent of Year 12 students studying a language other than English within a decade. A key part of the Australian Government's commitment to reviving language study, is the Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) Programme ('the Programme').

The Australian Government provided \$9.8 million for a one year trial of ELLA in 41 preschool services nationally to determine the effectiveness of children learning a language through apps without a proficient language teacher. A total of 35 apps, consisting of seven unique apps for each of the five languages, Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian, French and Japanese, have been developed.

In 2016, the Australian Government has expanded ELLA to include preschool services on a BYOD basis that lodged an application to participate in the 2015 trial. The Programme is funded by the Australian Government and managed on their behalf by Education Services Australia (ESA).

2.1 Early Learning Languages Australia

ELLA is a child-centred programme specifically aimed at children in the year before school. It includes a suite of materials, including apps, resource material and educator support networks, developed through the ELLA trial to support the effective delivery of early language learning in preschool services.

The Polyglots are the ELLA play-based applications ('the apps'), custom developed for language learning on mobile tablet devices. The apps provide children the opportunity to develop recognition of the different sounds and concepts of another language through play-based learning. Children are introduced to words, sentences and songs in the language and through age appropriate experiences and practices in the language.

The apps have been designed to consider the needs, interests and capabilities of four-year-olds. The apps provide opportunities for children to learn through interaction with a rich variety of experiences. The apps encourage collaboration, between peers and with educators as co-learners.

The apps best suit an approach that integrates them within the larger learning environment of a preschool or classroom. The apps are purposeful in their design and the development of learning. The topic, concept and key language focus of each of the apps allow for ease of integration in an early learning programme for children in their year before school. When

children can see the relationship of the apps to learning they are engaged in beyond the apps they have opportunities for a rich learning experience.

The language activities in each of the apps are aligned to the learning outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework, a key component of the Australian Government's National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care. A copy of the EYLF can be found on the [Department of Education and Training](http://www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework) website here: www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework

2.2 Objectives of the ELLA Programme

The aim of the Programme is for children to have early experience in language learning as an important platform for encouraging language learning in the later years of education.

The keys objectives of the Programme are to:

- introduce children to words, sentences, and songs in a language other than English
- give children opportunities to recognise sounds and concepts of the language
- provide children with appropriate experience and practice in the language
- provide engaging and educational play based language learning experiences.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Eligibility

Programme participants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Offer a preschool/kindergarten programme:
 - a. provided only to children in the year before full time school; and
 - b. delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher.
2. Have an active internet and WiFi connection for the duration of your participation in the Programme and meet all costs associated with this participation.
3. Have lodged an application in 2014 to participate in the Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) trial.

3.2 Children's Eligibility and Consent Forms

Participation by children in the Programme is voluntary. A child's parent/guardian must be complete a consent form before a child can commence using the apps provided under the Programme.

Only children enrolled in a preschool/kindergarten programme in the year before full-time school are eligible to use the apps provided under the Programme and only children who have been given consent to participate may use the apps. Children meeting the eligibility requirements can join the Programme at any time.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Department of the Education and Training

The department has principal responsibility for the administration of the Programme and is, amongst other things, responsible for:

- Promoting the programme and engaging with stakeholders through communication activities.
- Co-ordinating and approving the eligibility of participation requests from services.
- Administering participation agreements with services.
- Policy development and evaluation, including analysis of ELLA usage data.

4.2 Education Services Australia (ESA)

ESA are contracted by the department to manage the delivery of the Programme. ESA is responsible for, amongst other things:

- Providing support and assistance to programme participants, including the ELLA Helpdesk, newsletters and Facebook page.
- Managing the technical aspects of the Programme, including the ELLA website, passwords and app maintenance.
- Developing support materials, including the *Programme Implementation Guide, Quick Start Guide*, for educators to effectively engage in the Programme.
- Providing advice and materials to services for families of children participating in the Programme, including Parent brochure.
- Guiding service providers in the delivery of the Programme.
- Monitoring programme participants and the Programme, including downloading of apps and uploading of data and participant information.
- Developing additional resources to support educators and families engage with the Programme.

4.3 Programme participant requirements

Programme participants are a preschool, kindergarten or child care centre providing a preschool/kindergarten programme that are eligible to participate in the Programme, as approved by the Department of Education and Training.

Programme participants must enter into a participation agreement with the Department prior to commencing in the Programme.

Programme participants are responsible for:

- Facilitating delivery of the Programme in accordance with the Programme delivery requirements at 4.3.1.
- Bearing all costs associated with providing the Programme within their service as per 4.3.2, including purchase of tablet devices and maintenance of an ongoing WiFi connection.
- Services are responsible for resolving any IT issues themselves with their own internet provider.

- Uploading usage data on a monthly basis and participating in all evaluation exercises during the 2016 Programme. Note that data will be de-identified and aggregated when used to inform Programme planning.

4.3.1 Programme delivery requirements

Services are responsible for the delivery of the Programme to all eligible children who have been given consent to participate. Services are responsible for obtaining consent for all eligible children.

The apps are designed to enable services to implement the Programme flexibly within the preschool classroom, and to meet a diverse range of children's developmental needs.

The following are requirements for Service Providers in delivering the Programme:

- The apps will be released in a sequential order periodically throughout the 2016 school year. Services will be required to download the series of apps to their service's tablet devices as they become available.
- Children should be provided access to the apps for up to 30 to 40 minutes per week, over a number of sessions, rather than in one session (see 6.2 *National Physical Activity Recommendations for Children (0-5 years)*). Providers are responsible for monitoring and regulating usage on this basis.
- Tablets should be made available as a learning experience as part of the regular early childhood programme.
- The apps cannot be accessed by non-eligible children. Providers are responsible for identifying and offering alternative arrangements to the apps for non-eligible children.

4.3.2 Programme costs

Participating services are required to bear all costs associated with providing the Programme within their service. This includes, but is not limited to, data usage costs and all hardware requirements such as modems, routers and tablet devices.

The apps have been developed to run on Apple iPads and Android tablets only and must meet the technical requirements outlined below.

An ongoing WiFi connection is required at their service for downloading apps and uploading usage data on a monthly basis.

All apps will be provided throughout the 2016 school year free of charge to download.

To promote optimal language learning opportunities, one supported tablet device per five children is recommended.

Note: Ongoing trial sites are not required to purchase tablet devices but they must complete the user agreement for the ongoing care and maintenance of IPADS provided as part of the trial.

5. Technical Requirements

Participating services are responsible for ensuring their tablet devices meet the technical requirements. The apps have been built to work optimally to certain minimum technical specifications, or greater, on Apple and Android tablets.

The following table provides information about the minimum tablet specifications on which the apps will work.

Technical feature	Apple	Android
CPU	64-bit, 1.5 GHz	64-bit, 2.3Ghz
RAM	2 GB	2 GB
Resolution	2048 x 1536	2048 x 1536
Supported Operating System	Current iOS 8.x	Current 5.x
Rear camera	8 MP, 1080p video	8 MP, 1080p video
Front camera	1.2 MP, 720p video	1.6 MP, 720p video
Mic	Dual microphones	Dual microphones
Connectivity	Wi-Fi, Bluetooth	Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC

Apple IPAD users will be required to establish an 'Apple ID account' using credit card details in order to download the apps.

6. ELLA Programme Support

6.1 Support for Participating Services

All Programme participants will be provided with a copy of the *Programme Implementation Guide*. The *Programme Implementation Guide* includes information on a range of topics about how to incorporate apps into a preschool programme and practical 'how to' information.

Participants will also be provided with a copy of the *Quick Start Guide*. The *Quick Start Guide* is a simple introductory guide with a short summary of all key information and can be used to get started. Supplementary materials can be accessed through the ELLA website as required to enhance language learning opportunities.

6.2 ELLA website

The [ELLA](http://www.ella.edu.au) website www.ella.edu.au can be accessed from any internet-enabled computer or device. It provides information about the ELLA Programme and enables services to access and set up children on the apps and view a child's use of the apps. More information regarding the setup of the Programme can be found in the Programme Implementation Guide available on the ELLA website at www.ella.edu.au

Participating services can access all of the support materials from a dedicated, protected area of the apps and also from the password-protected area of the [ELLA](http://www.ella.edu.au) website www.ella.edu.au.

6.3 Helpdesk

Participating Services are supported in the Programme via the ELLA helpdesk, managed by ESA. The helpdesk is available to support services with any queries relating to passwords or the ELLA apps. ESA are not able to assist with internet access or WiFi difficulties. When contacting the ELLA helpdesk a thorough description of the issue must be provided to help identify the problem and assist ESA in providing a solution.

Phone: 1800 468 303 (staffed 9 am to 4 pm AEST, Monday to Friday)

Email: ella@esa.edu.au (an ESA team member will endeavour to respond by the next business day)

7. How to Participate

7.1 Steps to Participate

To participate in the Programme in 2016, you must complete the following steps:

1. Download the participation application form and fill it out online. The application form can be found at: www.education.gov.au/early-learning-languages-australia
2. Once the department has received a completed application form, the department will assess it against the eligibility criteria in these Guidelines.
3. All applicants will be contacted by the department, and services that meet the eligibility criteria will be sent information about getting started with the Programme.

Appendix 1 - Physical Activity Recommendations

The Australian Government Department of Health sets out the following in the *National Physical Activity Recommendations for Children (0-5 years)*:

- For Children 2 to 5 years of age, sitting and watching television and the use of other electronic media (DVDs, computer and other electronic games) should be limited to less than one hour per day.

Further information on [Australia's physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pubhlth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines) can be found here: www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pubhlth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines

Appendix 2 - Glossary

Apps (application)

The *Polyglots* Apps are small, specialised programmes downloaded onto tablets.

Programme participants

A preschool, kindergarten or child care centre providing a preschool/kindergarten programme that meets the eligibility requirements and is accepted.

Preschool

Preschool is defined as the year before school and off sessional and part-time group-based programs for children aged three and four years. Preschool in New South Wales, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory; and Kindergarten in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Tablet

A wireless, portable personal computer with a touchscreen interface.

Programme

Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) Programme.

ESA

Education Services Australia.

The department

The Department of Education and Training.

EYLF

Early Years Learning Framework. 'Belonging, Being and Becoming – the Early Years Learning Framework' is a key component of the Australian Government's National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care. The document describes the principles, practices and outcomes that support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school.