



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

A P&C Parent contact just for early learning (Preschool & Kindy)

Primary P&C Associations play an important role for parents of young children. Families that are new to the school community are often looking for connections and information. First time parents can find the transition particularly foreign. When children are transitioning into early school education, families appreciate extra support to navigate procedures and connect with the school community.

This is a great time for P&C Associations to be visible, welcoming, and accessible to new parents which is why Council recommends creating a P&C role for early learning families.

But why?

Children develop so rapidly when they're young it can make your head spin! Not to mention the potential dramas that starting school can bring.

A few friendly faces can make all the difference, especially when they have the answers to your questions before you ask.

It's all about relationships

Smoothing the road to starting school is all about relationships. Those formed between the child and parents, teachers, school staffs, and especially peers or classmates. We know children absorb information like sponges and adults are constantly modelling respectful relationships through their interactions within the community.

Opportunities for parents and families to meet other parents, families, teachers, and school staff in the early years are mutually beneficial. Creating a trusted network helps build a sense of belonging – a core component of the early years learning framework.

The attached template acknowledges, and encourages, the significant role of family engagement in early learning.



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

Role Description

P&C Parent Representative (Volunteer) Preschool/Kindy/Early Learning

The role should not overwhelm the incumbent, it should be tailored to the capacity of individual volunteers, and ideally be a small team, collaborative effort.

What the preschool parent rep might do

P&C's determine their priorities according to the constitution and the community's requirements. This role may work as a capacity building process and introduction to the P&C.

[school name] P&C Association aims to support the school and children's learning through activities that are focussed on [priorities]

The EL role could focus on one or two of the following:

- Introducing the role: to other parents and carers, and key staff (see letter template).
- Collaborate with the school's EL staff (and executive teacher) noting protocols.
- Collaborate with the parent community,
- Distribute information or event calendars, or invitations,
- Review participation,
- Explore existing opportunities to engage with parents and carers about the early years school experience and ways to collect/share feedback,
- Establish or update a manual or guide for the parent representative role ie activities, contacts, key dates, plans.
- Attend and/or report to P&C mtgs.

Council provides free training for office bearers.

Resources

Council's Early Learning [weblink](#)

Contact

Marina Spurgin, [Early Learning Officer](#),
ACT Council of P&C Association