



Driver Primary Preschool



INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Telephone: 08 8935 9000

Web: www.schools.nt.edu.au/driverps

Email: admin.drivesch@education.nt.gov.au

37 Driver Ave
DRIVER NT 0830
PO Box 33
PALMERSTON NT 0831

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Larrakia people, and give our respect to the land on which Driver Primary Preschool is built. We value Aboriginal and Islander cultures, identities, and continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



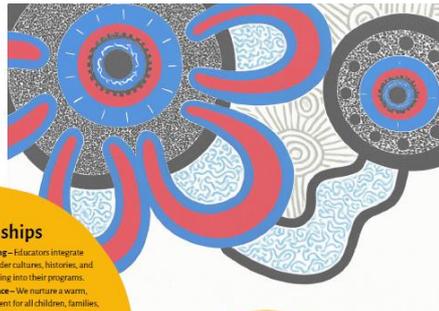
Welcome to Driver Primary Preschool. We hope the time you and your child share with us will be both happy and rewarding. This booklet will provide you with important information in order to ensure you and your child have a smooth transition into Preschool.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Driver Preschool is committed to continuing our Reconciliation journey by building respectful relationships and a deeper understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and perspectives. Through everyday learning experiences, conversations, and community connections, we aim to create an environment where children develop respect for the First Nations peoples of Australia and the land on which we learn and play. At Driver Preschool, we recognise that reconciliation is an ongoing journey, and we strive to embed inclusive practices that celebrate culture, promote understanding, and support children in becoming caring and respectful members of our community.



**Little Learners,
Big Respect**
Our Journey of
Reconciliation



Relationships

Embedding Culture in Learning – Educators integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and the 8 Ways of Aboriginal Learning into their programs.

Creating a Safe & Inclusive Space – We nurture a warm, respectful, and inclusive environment for all children, families, and community members.

Opportunities to Celebrate Culture – We provide meaningful opportunities for children and families to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Ongoing Learning for Educators – Staff continue to grow their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.

Honouring Country & Connection – We recognise Country through Welcome to Country at significant events and provide a map of languages across Australia to celebrate connections to Country.

Opportunities

Embedding Culture in Learning – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and perspectives are meaningfully included in our curriculum through activities, stories, visits (e.g. Purlakali), and cultural practices (e.g. Larrakia Calendar, Yarning Circles, Zones of Regulation).

Family and Community Partnerships – Families are invited to share knowledge, lead activities, and contribute ideas. We partner with Elders, community members, and organisations like Stars, Clontarf, and Larrakia Nation to strengthen cultural connections.

Celebrating Culture Together – We honour and participate in cultural events such as NAIDOC Week, Sorry Day, and local festivals, promoting awareness and pride across our preschool and wider community.

Student and Staff Engagement – Children are encouraged to be part of developing our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Staff share the RAP within the school and community, and continue learning through cultural experiences and connections.

Resourcing and Commitment – Our preschool budget supports the purchase of culturally significant resources, strengthening whole-school programs and ensuring long-term commitment to reconciliation.

Respect

Embedding Culture Every Day – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and perspectives are woven into daily routines, environments, stories, and learning experiences.

Celebrating Significant Events – We recognise and teach about NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, Sorry Day, and other important cultural events with children, families, and staff.

Learning Respectful Practices – Staff continue to grow their understanding of culturally respectful practices, such as language, acknowledgements of Country, and appropriate ways of showing respect.

Community and Elder Connections – We build strong relationships with local Elders, role models, and Aboriginal organisations to share stories, knowledge, and culture with children.

Visible Recognition and Pride – We proudly fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and celebrate culture through representation in our program, environments, and community connections.



Special thanks to Kalesha Dearaugo for her artwork

How do classes work?

Driver Preschool is staffed with one full-time classroom teacher and one full-time teaching assistant per 22 students. Other staff may assist in the Preschool on a regular basis to provide release and break times for staff. While each class has a main locker room and an allocated teacher, students can move through the Preschool rooms during joint investigation times.

The Preschool offers a multi-age program for children who have turned four or will turn four by June 30 in the year of enrolment.

What sessions are available at Driver Preschool?

Monday/Tuesday 8:00am-2:30pm & Alternate Wednesdays 8:00am-12:00pm

Thursday/Friday 8:00am-2:30pm & Alternate Wednesdays 8:00am-12:00pm

An alternate Wednesday morning session is available for each group. Where possible, families are able to choose session days which suits their child and family commitments.

Are uniforms required at Driver Preschool?

At Driver Preschool students are encouraged to wear the Driver Primary School uniform, supporting their sense of belonging in our wider school community. Although uniforms are not mandatory at Preschool, it is a great time to start practising for Primary School. Uniforms can be purchased from the Driver Primary School front office.

On enrolment, each family is allocated to a sports house team. Sports shirts are worn at Driver Primary School each Friday. Preschool students who attend our Monday/Tuesday classes are invited to join the tradition and wear their house shirt on a Tuesday.



The Northern Territory Government provides a **Back to School \$200 Payment Voucher**. This is available to all school students and can be used to go toward the purchase of Preschool Resource Packs and uniforms. This payment must be used by parents by the **end of the first term of their enrolment**.



What can I expect on day one?

To support a smooth start to Preschool we offer parents and children a chance to 'Come and Try' Preschool together with a short session on the first day. This is a great opportunity for parents to familiarise themselves with their child's room and routines, as their child begins their learning journey with us.

Families will be allocated a 2-hour session to attend with their child and will be informed during the Preschool Information night.

Parents are required to stay with their child for the duration of the Come and Try Session.

How can I help prepare my child for Preschool?

When at Preschool we encourage children to be independent in caring for their personal needs and belongings.

Some ways to guide and support children to develop their independence at Preschool include:

- Independently going to the toilet including undressing, wiping & redressing themselves
- Carrying and unpacking their own bag
- Looking after and packing away their own hat and belongings
- Having a manageable lunch - e.g., Pre-cutting fruit at home, spoons or forks supplied from home, containers that students can open and close themselves.
- Putting socks & shoes on without support, Velcro shoes are a great alternative to laces.



We ask parents/carers to help us promote their child's independence and practise these skills at home with your child, before starting Preschool.

Research has suggested that encouraging these skills enhances children's self-esteem as they gain much needed self-help skills for future development. This self-help is invaluable for when your child starts school. Although children may demonstrate frustration, this is an emotion that happens before the mastery of new skills.

Who can drop off and collect my child?

As the Northern Territory Government (NTG) Department of Education Policy states, Pre-schoolers are required to be **escorted to their classroom by an adult**. In order to ensure your child's safety, it is **essential that you wait with your child**, prior to the commencement of each session, until a staff member opens the door.

It is also a good idea to be at Preschool approximately 5 minutes prior to the finish time as it can be distressing for children if they are not picked up on time. To ensure the safety of our children, the Preschool gate will remain locked between the hours of 8:40 and 2:15. If you are arriving late, you will need to take your child to the main school office to sign in and be marked late.

If a parent or guardian is unable to collect their child, they must inform preschool staff immediately. The person collecting the child must be an authorised nominee, as outlined in the child's enrolment records or added through the NT Authorised Nominee Supplementary Form when required. This ensures that all collection procedures meet Northern Territory regulatory requirements and that children are released only to approved individuals for their safety and wellbeing. If a child is to be **collected from or transported to another early childhood service**, such as a daycare or after-school care program, families must complete a **Consent for Collection** prior to this arrangement taking place. This form ensures that Driver Preschool staff have written authorisation from the parent or guardian and that all parties involved understand the agreed collection process. This procedure supports the safe collection of children between services and meets Northern Territory regulatory requirements.

Do I have to notify absences?

We are required by the Department of Education to record reasons why children are absent from Preschool. Parents/Carers are required to advise staff if their child is absent from Preschool. Please ring the Driver Primary office and leave details of absence on **8935 9000**. You can also email the teacher on (firstname.lastname@education.nt.gov.au) or message them on Class Dojo to advise of any absence.

How can I help settle my child in the morning?

Beginning Preschool can be unsettling for some children, even if they are used to leaving you. Settling into Preschool can take longer for some children than others. Regular routines help to settle children in the morning.

Encourage children to unpack their own bag, put their lunch box in the fridge and water bottle into the labelled container. Stay with them if possible and settle them with a story or puzzle. If your child settles easily into an activity, say goodbye before you go and then leave straight away. Please don't leave without saying goodbye as it causes unnecessary distress and a feeling of insecurity.

If your child clings to you and cries when you leave, we will do our utmost to ensure they settle. This usually doesn't last long once they become involved in activities. Rest assured we will contact you if your child doesn't settle.

What should I bring each day?

A **large bag** to hold a lunch box, hat, spare clothes, and things children make each day.

A **sun safe hat**. Driver Primary School uniform broad brimmed hats are available for purchase at the Primary School office. No caps please.

Footwear that your child can easily manage. The Preschool environment is one where shoes come on and off throughout the day, for different activities. Children should wear shoes that they can take off and put on independently.

Please send along a labelled set of **spare clothes** for messy and wet activities each day or in case your child has an accident.

Please send along a **water bottle** that is clearly named and filled with **water only**.

Mealtimes - Eating time is designed to be a social experience that fosters communication skills and relationship building. Please provide a manageable lunch that is healthy and supports child independence e.g., sandwich, pre-cut fruit, yoghurt with a spoon, crackers and cheese.

Please save treats for after school. Lunch boxes are stored during the day in a fridge.

On Wednesdays, only morning tea is required, as children leave at lunch time.

Driver Preschool encourages a nut free environment. Due to this we request that families do not pack foods that contain nuts in lunch boxes. It is also essential that Preschool staff are notified of any allergies, specific food restrictions or dietary needs.

Library Bag - Children are offered the opportunity to borrow books from the school library during their Wednesday sessions, commencing in Term Two. Children must have a library bag to borrow. *Please note that parents will be responsible for replacing damaged or lost books.*

What can I expect from an average day at Preschool?

Timetabling of a Preschool day is dependent on educators, children, and other influencing factors such as the weather, or special events. The program is flexible and may change according to children's needs and interests.

An example of possible programmed learning experiences could be:

Time of day	Examples of activities that may be offered
Start of the day	Books, puzzles and a name related activity.
Mat session	A literacy, numeracy, social and emotional or unit focus based activity.
Outdoor investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting on easels • Bikes • Trucks and diggers in the sand pit • Outdoor Kitchen • Drawing on the chalk boards • Obstacle course • Sensory play • Train set on a mat • Tea party in a cosy corner • Swings, rocker see-saw • Wet play
Morning tea	Supports children to build conversations at their table, followed by a brain gym activity to collect the children together and practise actions that improve connections in their brains, ready for the next mat session.
Mat session	A literacy, numeracy, social and emotional or unit focus based activity.
Indoor investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching magnetic letters to your name • Arts and Crafts • Building a rocket • Making a science sensory bottle • Being a chef in the home corner • Writing letters • Playing in the home corner • Building a tower using large wooden blocks • Investigating a nature table • Phonics • Interactive white board activities • Making playdough 
Lunch	Supporting children to build conversations with peers at the table.
Rest Time	As per the National Quality Standards, each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for including appropriate opportunities to provide a child's need for sleep, rest, and relaxation. (NQS Quality Area 2.1.1 - Children's Health and Safety)
Outdoor investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music – putting actions to songs and rhymes • Throwing and catching large balls • Investigating the pond
End of the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack up, get bags ready and story time • Jolly Phonics Song • Reflecting on the day and revisiting the learning that has taken place. • Asking children to share their experiences of their day • Encourage children to think of ideas for future learning.

What about Watery Wednesdays?

On the alternate Wednesdays your child attends Preschool, if you would like them to participate in water activities, please send them to Preschool dressed in sun safe swimmers i.e., Rashie or t-shirt over bathers.

Children must bring a clearly labelled towel and change of clothes in a named plastic bag. The Preschool paddling pool and various other watery activities are available on this day. Non-water activities are also offered for children who choose not to participate in watery play.

How can I stay in touch with Driver Preschool?

Communication Pockets: Each child has a message pocket which is used as our means of getting written information home to our families. Please check your child's message pocket each day.

Class Dojo: This is an app which allows teachers to send you updates, photos and videos while they work with your child. Through this free app you can gain a better understanding of your child's learning and individual goals, as well as be informed about the activities and experiences your child is a part of throughout the day. We take security seriously and adhere to government guidelines for cyber safety. No one can find your child's account unless you invite them. Parents are the administrators of their child's account, and the owners of all photos, videos, and content. Permission to have educators create an account for your child was included in the Enrolment Package. Please see your teacher if you have any questions.



Social Media & online platforms: The best way to stay up to date with Driver Primary School is via our online platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Skool Loop App

Noticeboards: These are located at various points in and around the Preschool. They may contain information on the teaching and learning program, upcoming events, other notifications, and community information.

Can I help out at Preschool?

Parental involvement strengthens and enhances children's learning. At Driver we encourage and appreciate parent's assistance. Please give thought to:



- ✓ sharing your skills and interests with the staff and children e.g., craft, story-telling, music, cooking
- ✓ helping with the daily program. It is especially helpful if you can indicate in advance when you are able to come and stay, so we can plan activities with an extra adult in mind
- ✓ Assisting with the laundry at the end of the week (e.g., taking smocks, tea towels etc home to wash)
- ✓ taking time to share the experience of Preschool e.g., spend a couple of minutes at the beginning of the day reading a book or doing a puzzle with your child and/or other children
- ✓ working bees or special fundraising events - these opportunities are advertised as required

Do I need to buy school supplies?

A donation of \$60.00 can be made through the Driver Primary School office. This Donation goes towards a preschool recourse pack.



Department of Education (DoE) funding allows us to purchase educational essentials such as plain and coloured paper, pencils, glue, and paint. The **Preschool Resource Pack** compliments existing funding to enhance creative educational resources available to Preschool students. The Preschool Resource Pack contains high quality materials and supplies such as glitter, feathers, glitter-paint, googly eyes, pop sticks, beads, pipe cleaners, matchsticks, scoobie string etc. These enable Preschool students to express their ideas and imagination through creative educational experiences. Purchasing these resource packs assists your child's educational program.

The Northern Territory Government provides a **Back to School \$200 Payment Voucher**. This is available to all school students and can be used to go towards donating to the Preschool Resource Packs, uniforms, and excursions. This payment must be used by parents by the **end of the first term of their enrolment**.

Fundraising

Driver Preschool is involved in several fundraising activities during the year. All monies raised are used to purchase, upgrade, and extend educational equipment and the Preschool environment. The success of fundraising is heavily dependent on parental support. A couple of the fundraising activity examples in the past have been.

- Wheel-a-thon
- Splash and Dash
- Dress Like a Pirate

We look forward to your participation and support in these ventures.

Can I celebrate my child's birthday?

Birthdays are a very special occasion, and we encourage children to celebrate at Preschool. We recommend healthy alternatives. Preschool has a celebration consent form attached to the enrolment pack. This allows consent for your child to eat foods that have been brought in for celebrative purposes.

Important reminder to please let us know if your child has any allergies, specific food restrictions or dietary needs.

NT Preschool Curriculum

We use the NT Preschool Curriculum to implement the five outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework which supports intentional teaching of language, literacy and numeracy through play-based learning.



We Grow, We Play, We Learn With

The Head

At Driver Preschool, we believe in beautiful beginnings where families, culture, and community come together to nurture each child's journey. Families are a child's first teacher, and we respect the important role they play in shaping their child's identity, confidence, and wellbeing. We see our preschool as an extension of each child's home, where warmth, safety, patience, and genuine relationships are at the heart of everything we do. In our classroom, we believe in equality, so everyone shares, and in equity, so everyone can shine in their own way. We deeply value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and perspectives. We share stories, songs, and experiences that help children connect with country, community, and culture. Through weaving these rich traditions into our everyday learning, we help children grow with respect, understanding, and a strong sense of shared history. Our educators are passionate, encouraging, and patient, building trust through everyday moments of care, curiosity, and play. These contributions help us create a meaningful, play-based curriculum that grows from children's interests and strengths.

The Heart

At Driver Preschool, play is how children make sense of their world and is where learning begins, friendships form, and imagination come to life. We create inviting, adventurous, and nurturing environments that spark curiosity and wonder. Through open-ended experiences, children are encouraged to explore, imagine, and express themselves in their own unique way. We see each child as a storyteller with a hundred ways to share their thoughts, feelings, and discoveries through play, art, words, and wonder. Our role is to listen and respond thoughtfully, valuing how children communicate. Our outdoor spaces, including the farm, garden, and swimming pool are places of discovery where children learn through hands-on exploration. The farm extends our Living and Non-Living program, offering authentic opportunities to observe, care for, and connect with nature. We nurture a love for the natural world, guiding children to respect Country and embrace their responsibility for a sustainable future.

The Hands

At Driver Preschool, learning is personal, purposeful, and full of possibility. Our teaching approach blends spontaneous play with intentional learning opportunities guided by each child's voice. Through listening, reflecting, and responding, we ensure children's ideas shape the curriculum. We combine spontaneous play with thoughtful teaching, always listening to each child and allowing their ideas to guide the experiences we offer. We place a strong focus on building social and emotional development alongside important executive functioning skills such as memory, problem-solving, attention, and self-regulation. Our educators use their deep understanding of early childhood pedagogy, meaning they understand how young children learn and grow. They use this expertise, alongside the latest research to foster a lifelong love of learning.



Special thanks to Kalesha Dearaujo for her artwork 2025

Early Years Learning Framework

The Early Years Learning Framework describes childhood as a time of *belonging*, *being* and *becoming*.

- **Belonging** is the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they *belong* because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.
- **Being** is about living here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just 'be'—time to play, try new things and have fun.
- **Becoming** is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.

Through the Framework's five learning goals we will assist your child to develop:

- **a strong sense of identity**
- **connections with their world**
- **a strong sense of wellbeing**
- **confidence and involvement in their learning**
- **effective communication skills**

Using the Early Years Learning Framework, educators will observe your child's learning so they can build on it and plan the next steps. We will do this by listening, watching, and talking with your child.

We will keep in touch with you regularly to discuss your child's progress. We use photos/snapshots and stories through Class Dojo, to show what your child is learning, how they are developing and what learning interests them.

Students and Volunteers

Driver Primary is a Charles Darwin University (CDU) Teaching School. The Preschool may host student teachers, work experience students or volunteers from time to time. All visitors to the Preschool are supervised closely by the Preschool teacher and must hold a current Working with Children Card. This partnership provides much needed experience for people interested in early childhood education and provides extra support for the children at the Preschool.

Driver Garden

Driver Preschool regularly visit and enjoy the Driver Primary School Garden. The whole school garden is home to chickens, stingless honeybees, frog hotels, a guinea fowl and a range of different fruit and vegetables.

Driver Garden is a valuable learning space with strong links to our Preschool Program particularly when exploring unit topics such as life and living, sustainability and recycling. The garden assists children to extend on their learning, giving authentic opportunities for children to connect their thoughts and ideas with real experiences.



Donations

At Driver Preschool we like to recycle. We have 3 baskets under our 'sign in' table to support our preschool to practice sustainability. These baskets are for 1. Recycling plastics 2. Cardboard 3. Donation materials that can be reused. Please feel free to drop off your recycled goods. We use lots of recycled items at Preschool every day and you can help by donating these items.

Craft items

- ◆ boxes
- ◆ cardboard
- ◆ ribbon
- ◆ wool
- ◆ egg cartons
- ◆ ice cream containers
- ◆ cut timber for woodwork
- ◆ wrapping paper
- ◆ used stamps
- ◆ kitchen paper/gladwrap rolls

Dramatic Play items

- ◆ clothes for dress ups
- ◆ shoes, bags, purses
- ◆ necklaces & hats for dressing up
- ◆ kitchen utensils, bowls, cake tins, saucepans
- ◆ fake flowers





Transitional Pathways to Driver Primary School

We understand the importance of children feeling safe, secure, and having a sense of belonging to the school community. Because of this, our Preschool is involved in a variety of orientation sessions in the last part of the year.

Transitional pathways include having play time together in the Transition yard, meeting Transition teachers, attending whole school events and visiting a typical Transition classroom to participate in organised activities.

Supporting my child's health and wellbeing

Children who are unwell do not gain a great deal from a preschool session. **Please keep unwell children at home.** This precaution not only helps your child but also minimises the spread of disease. Please refer to the 'Time Out' poster attached to this document regarding exclusion periods for illnesses.

In the case of **illness/injury** occurring during Preschool session times, parents will be notified and if necessary, asked to collect their child.

Head lice are very contagious amongst children. If you find head lice in your child's hair, please treat immediately. When staff discover a case of head lice at Preschool, a phone call will be made to the parent/carer and a letter sent home to all families to check for head lice.

Sunscreen: In our harsh climate it is important that children are **sun safe**. Please apply sunscreen to your child prior to arriving at Preschool. We provide access to sunscreen for families in the morning and with consent we also reapply sunscreen before our afternoon outside investigation time and ensure they have a hat and a water bottle to hydrate.

Mosquito Repellent: Throughout the year, there are times when your child will need protection from mosquitoes. Please ensure you apply a suitable repellent to your child before they come to preschool. Alternatively, a non-aerosol repellent can be held at preschool, please note this will require a chemist label to be stored at the service.

Emergency Drills: It is important that children and staff are aware of evacuation procedures, therefore we provide regular practise **emergency drills** at Preschool.

Driver Preschool is a smoking and vaping free zone. Please ensure a minimum of 10 meters from the boundary fence.



What if my child needs medication while at Preschool?

We understand that children become unwell from time to time. If your child requires medication to be administered at Preschool, you must complete an Administration of Medication form. Staff are unable to administer medication unless signed permission is granted by the parent/guardian. Please ask a Preschool Staff member for a form if required.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information. We look forward to working closely with you and your child.

Kind Regards,

The Preschool Team

Preschool Risk Assessments

For the safety and wellbeing of all children, Driver Preschool staff complete risk assessments for activities and experiences within the program. These risk assessments help ensure that potential hazards are identified and managed appropriately. Families are welcome to view these risk assessments at any time, and staff are happy to discuss them if you would like more information.

Preschool Policies and Procedures

Driver Preschool Policies & Procedures

Ensuring a Safe, Supportive & High-Quality Learning Environment

Families are **welcome** to view any of our preschool policies & procedures **at any time**

You are welcome to ask to view:

- Child Safety & Wellbeing
- Health & Safety
- Supervision of Children
- Emergency & Evacuation Procedures
- Sun Safety
- Medical Conditions & Medication
- Water Play Safety
- Hygiene & Infection Control
- Behaviour Guidance & Positive Interactions
- Inclusion & Equity
- Arrival & Departure
- Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness
- Excursions & Risk Management
- Complaints & Feedback
- Family & Community Participation

Our Policies are available at the Preschool.
Just ask a staff member to view a copy.

Coming Soon!
Policies will be available digitally on the Driver Primary School website.

We value working in **partnership** with families to create a **safe, respectful** and **supportive** learning environment for all children.

Driver Preschool's Commitment to a Child Safe Culture

At Driver Preschool, we are committed to creating and upholding a child safe culture where every child is protected, supported, and valued. We strive to ensure that children's rights, safety, and wellbeing are at the heart of everything we do.

Our 8 Commitments

Respecting Children's Rights

We actively respect children's rights to be heard, to feel safe, and to say 'no' when uncomfortable, fostering an environment of trust and empowerment.

Safety First

We prioritise the safety and wellbeing of every child above all else and ensure our practices meet the highest standards of care and protection.

Listening to Children

We value children's voices, listening carefully to their concerns and acting promptly and respectfully on what they share, both verbally and non-verbally.

Inclusive Practices

We embrace and celebrate diversity, ensuring that every child feels welcomed, respected, and supported regardless of their background, culture, or abilities.

Professional Conduct

We uphold the highest professional standards, ensuring that all staff, volunteers, and visitors model respectful, safe, and ethical behaviour at all times.

Strong Safeguarding Practices

We implement and follow robust child protection policies, procedures, and risk management strategies to identify, reduce, and respond to risks of harm.

Family Partnerships

We work in genuine partnership with families, sharing responsibility for keeping children safe and supporting their wellbeing through open and respectful communication.

Ongoing Learning and Reflection

We commit to continuous training, reflection, and improvement in child safety practices, ensuring our culture remains strong, responsive, and child-focused.

	
Darwin	cdc-surveillance.darwin@nt.gov.au (08) 8922 8044
Alice Springs	cdc.alicesprings@nt.gov.au (08) 8951 7549
Katherine	cdc.katherine.doh@nt.gov.au (08) 8973 9049
Nhulunbuy	cdc.gove.doh@nt.gov.au (08) 8987 0357
Tennant Creek	cdc.barkly@nt.gov.au (08) 8962 4259



Time Out

Minimum periods of exclusion from schools, preschools and childcare centres for children or staff who have been exposed to an infectious disease

Conditions	Case (person with the infection)	Contact (person in contact with the case)
Chickenpox (varicella)	EXCLUDE until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days from the onset of the rash in unvaccinated children, and less in vaccinated children.	EXCLUDE non-immune pregnant women and immunocompromised* contacts, due to the possibility of further cases. Advise that they seek urgent medical attention. Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice.
Cold sores (herpes simplex)	NOT EXCLUDED if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. Sores should be covered with a dressing, where possible. EXCLUDE young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices while sores are weeping.	NOT EXCLUDED
Conjunctivitis	EXCLUDE until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis.	NOT EXCLUDED
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting (i.e "gastro") which may be due to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campylobacteriosis • Cryptosporidiosis • Giardiasis • Norovirus • Rotavirus infection • Salmonellosis • Shigellosis • Viral gastroenteritis (diarrhoea & vomiting) 	<p>EXCLUDE people with diarrhoea (3 or more loose stools in a 24 hour period) or vomiting until 24 hours after their last loose bowel motion or vomit, except this exclusion time is extended in the instances below;</p> <p>EXCLUDE any person with confirmed norovirus infection until 48 hours after symptoms stop.</p> <p>EXCLUDE any person with diarrhoea or vomiting who prepares or serves food, until 48 hours after symptoms stop.</p> <p>People with confirmed cryptosporidiosis infection should not swim, paddle or participate in water play for at least 2 weeks after their last loose stool.</p> <p>Note: If there are 2 or more cases of diarrhoea or vomiting in your facility OR if a food handler is sick, please contact your local Public Health Unit.</p>	NOT EXCLUDED
Diphtheria	 EXCLUDE until a medical certificate of recovery from the Public Health Unit is received, following at least two negative throat swabs, the first at least 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics, and the second at least 48 hours after the first swab.	NOT EXCLUDED
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.
Fungal infections of the skin or nails (e.g. ringworm, tinea)	EXCLUDE until 24 hours after starting appropriate antifungal treatment.	NOT EXCLUDED
Glandular fever (mononucleosis, Epstein-Barr virus [EBV] infection)	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Hand, foot and mouth disease (EV71)	EXCLUDE until all blisters have dried.	NOT EXCLUDED
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	 EXCLUDE until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days.	NOT EXCLUDED Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice.
Head lice (pediculosis)	EXCLUDE until appropriate treatment has commenced. The child does not need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected	NOT EXCLUDED
Hepatitis A	EXCLUDE until a medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness.	NOT EXCLUDED Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children and staff. Exclusion may be warranted if no history of vaccination or not willing to receive vaccine.
Hepatitis B	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED

Conditions	Case (person with the infection)	Contact (person in contact with the case)
Hepatitis C	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Hepatitis E	EXCLUDE until at least 2 weeks after the onset of jaundice.	NOT EXCLUDED
HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Influenza-like illnesses: • COVID-19 • Influenza (flu) • Pneumococcal disease • Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	EXCLUDE until symptoms have resolved.	NOT EXCLUDED
Listeriosis	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Measles	 EXCLUDE until at least 4 days after the onset of the rash.	NOT EXCLUDED: vaccinated or immune contacts. EXCLUDE: contacts who are non-immune or immunocompromised* until 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case. Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice.
Meningitis (viral)	EXCLUDE until symptoms have resolved.	NOT EXCLUDED
Meningococcal infection	 EXCLUDE until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed.	NOT EXCLUDED Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice about antibiotics and/or vaccination for close contacts.
Molluscum contagiosum	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Mumps	 EXCLUDE for 5 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner). Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.
Roseola (Sixth disease)	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Ross River virus	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Rubella (German measles)	 EXCLUDE until the person has fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash.	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.
Scabies	EXCLUDE until 24 hours after starting effective treatment.	NOT EXCLUDED
School sores (Impetigo)	EXCLUDE until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing until sores are dry	NOT EXCLUDED
Shingles (Herpes Zoster)	EXCLUDE if blisters are unable to be covered with waterproof dressing until blisters have dried and crusted.	Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice, including advice for pregnant women and immunocompromised* contacts.
Slapped cheek syndrome, fifth disease (human parvovirus B19, erythema infectiosum)	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	EXCLUDE until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed.	NOT EXCLUDED
Toxoplasmosis	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Thrush (Candidiasis)	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Tuberculosis (TB)	 EXCLUDE until a medical certificate is received from the local Public Health Unit.	NOT EXCLUDED Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	 EXCLUDE those in child care or preschool until two samples have tested negative. Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice. EXCLUDE others (primary school aged children to adults) until 48 hours after symptoms have resolved.	EXCLUDE until two of the person's stool samples have tested negative, at least 24 hours apart
Whooping cough (Pertussis)	 EXCLUDE until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset of cough.	EXCLUDE Contact the local Public Health Unit for specialist advice.
Worms	EXCLUDE until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours and treatment has occurred.	NOT EXCLUDED

 Telephone the Public Health Unit in your region so that immediate preventative public health measures can be undertaken. If you notice two or more cases of any of the above listed conditions in children or staff at your facility, please telephone the Public Health Unit for advice and educational materials.

* People can be immunocompromised either due to a medical condition or from receiving immunosuppressive medication/treatment. Examples include leukaemia and chemotherapy.



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Mental Health Services and Support

Beyond Blue

24/7 mental health support service

1300 22 4636
beyondblue.org.au

headspace

Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25

1800 650 890
(9am to 1am daily)
headspace.org.au

Kids Helpline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services

13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back

24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide

1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

13YARN

24/7 crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

13 92 76
13yarn.org.au

Mensline

24/7 counselling service for men

1300 78 99 78
mensline.org.au

1800 RESPECT

24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse

1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au

QLife

LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral

1800 184 527
qlife.org.au

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.



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