

Information for parents/ guardians

Language, culture and understanding

Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) program

ELLA is an Australian Government initiative.

www.ella.edu.au

Early Learning Languages Australia

Unlock their world through language



What is ELLA?

ELLA is a fun and easy digital language program for children. The program is an Australian Government initiative aimed at encouraging more students to learn a language.

Education Services Australia (ESA) manages the delivery of ELLA on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education.

ELLA has already been successfully integrated into thousands of preschools and schools across Australia, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from families and educators.

> *'It has been one of the best learning experiences of my 25-year teaching career. I am in awe daily of how quickly the children learn and have loved this learning.'*
>
> – Educator using ELLA

Your child's preschool or school offers ELLA as part of its early learning curriculum, from preschool/kindergarten through to Year 2.

How does ELLA work?

ELLA introduces students to learning a new language via interactive tablet apps, which have been developed in consultation with experts in languages, early childhood and technology. The Polyglots are a cast of characters who – through play-based learning – introduce the children to words, sentences and songs in another language. The apps draw on the interests and activities of children, such as celebrations, cooking experiences, art activities, building and role-play.

Your child's preschool or school has selected one of the following languages: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish, Turkish or Vietnamese. ELLA will create opportunities to enrich the language and culture in the apps through other activities such as cooking, stories or music, or inviting family and community members to share their cultures.

All ELLA apps are aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and the Australian Curriculum: Languages for F–2.



Is ELLA available for home use?

The ELLA apps are only to be used at preschool or school and are not available to be downloaded at home. However, you can ask your child's teacher to show you the apps, or you can visit the Support for families page on the ELLA website to explore resources you can use to extend ELLA experiences at home: www.ella.edu.au/support-for-families.



What are the benefits of ELLA?

> *'I took him to a Lebanese restaurant, and he ordered his drink in Arabic (like the character does in the app, I think), and he used "Thank you" and "Bye". And the waiter said his pronunciation was very good. Amazing.'*
>
> – Family of child using ELLA

Using ELLA has shown multiple benefits for children.

Children will expand their knowledge of how language works and apply these skills to other literacy tasks, such as listening carefully to sounds in words. These skills will be used when children learn to read and write. ELLA will help develop foundation skills, such as learning colours, numbers and counting, and greetings.

Research has shown that exposing children to language learning at an early age encourages them to continue language studies during secondary school.

> *'[My child] comes home keen to apply new words that he has learnt at school in the home context. He is even teaching his two-year-old sister to count in French. He often describes things in French.'*
>
> – Family of child using ELLA

Playing with the ELLA apps helps students develop and use cognitive and social skills. They will share their knowledge, interact with and help each other. Language learning improves memory, concentration and critical-thinking skills. Using the ELLA apps increases students' digital skills, too.

ELLA also creates opportunities to celebrate culture and diversity, share home languages, and strengthen connections with families.



Your child's participation in ELLA

ELLA is available at your child's preschool or school for children in preschool/kindergarten and Foundation to Year 2. However, it is your choice as parent/guardian whether your child participates in ELLA.

If your child participates in ELLA, you can expect the following things:

- Your child will have the opportunity to use the apps on a tablet device as part of program activities in their classroom.
- Your child's teacher or another staff member will be present when the tablet device is being used in the classroom.
- Your child's first name may be added to the tablet devices as their personal login/avatar. This information will only be accessed by your school and ESA, and will be deleted from the tablet devices at the end of the year.
- Usage data will be collected on the tablet devices during your child's sessions and will be sent electronically to ESA periodically, where it will be stored securely. The data relating to your child will be de-identified, that is, particular data will not be linked to your child.
- Aggregate data, analytics and results from ELLA (none of which identify your child or their preschool or school) may be included in ESA and Australian Government reports. This de-identified data may be made publicly available and could be used to inform future government policy on the early learning of languages in Australia.

Regarding online safety, the ELLA apps work within a closed system – the apps are not available to the public and are not able to be used to communicate with anyone outside the preschool or school.

You are encouraged to discuss any concerns about ELLA with your child's educators in the first instance. If you do not want your child to participate in the ELLA program, you should inform your preschool or school in writing.



Privacy notice

ESA and the Australian Government Department of Education respect the privacy of individuals, protect personal information and comply with relevant Australian privacy laws. In summary, we only collect personal information where it is reasonably necessary for, or directly related to, administering ELLA. We will only use and disclose personal information for the purposes for which we collected it or as otherwise allowed as outlined in the ELLA privacy policy. We protect the privacy of your child and the security of their personal information, and when personal information is no longer required we destroy or delete it in a secure manner.

The ELLA privacy policy is available at www.ella.edu.au/privacy-policy. The complete privacy policies of ESA (www.esa.edu.au/privacy) and the Australian Government Department of Education (www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) provide more detail on the collection, storage, use and disclosure of the personal information that we may hold about your child and how you can access or seek to amend that information.

If you have any queries about privacy, contact ESA at privacy@esa.edu.au; PO Box 177, Carlton South, Victoria, Australia 3053; or 03 9207 9600.

Further information about ELLA

Talk to your child's educator, visit the ELLA website www.ella.edu.au, or email the ELLA helpdesk at ella@esa.edu.au.

ELLA feedback and complaints management guidelines: www.ella.edu.au/feedback-and-complaint-guidelines



Education Services Australia

Australian Government Department of Education

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