



St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School

FAITH – HERITAGE – EDUCATION

7-9 GREENFIELD RD, GREENFIELD PARK NSW 2176
P.O. BOX 21A FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS NSW 2165
PH: 02 9753 4185 FAX: 02 9753 4192



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Australian Early Childhood Educational Development Experience (AECED) Research Project

From July to August this year, we will be taking part in the research project using the Australian version of the Early Development Instrument (AvEDI).

This research project is funded by the Australian Government and is being supported by the state or territory Government. The purpose of the research project is to gain a better understanding of the early learning experiences of young children on their development and transitions to school.

What is the AvEDI?

The AvEDI is a tool that measures a child's development in five areas or domains. These domains are physical health and wellbeing; communication skills and general knowledge; social competence; emotional maturity and language and cognitive skills. The AvEDI is not a test and children do not need to do anything, they will attend their centre as usual. In completing the AvEDI, Early Childhood Qualified Teachers (Teachers) will record information (including children's names and dates of birth) based on their knowledge and observations of each child in their early learning program.

Data has previously been collected on children in their first year of full-time school using the AvEDI, through the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) program in 2009, 2012 and 2015 to help school and local communities to better support young children in their early years in school. The AEDC will run again in 2018. More information about the AEDC program is available at www.aedc.gov.au. In addition, the questions used in the 2015 AEDC are available at www.aedc.gov.au/instrument as a guide to what teachers will be asked to complete about your child, A good place to start may be the "frequently asked questions" section on website at www.aedc.gov.au, or you may wish to phone 1800 092 548.

How will your child's data be used?

This research project is a great opportunity for everyone including parents, communities, early childhood education and care providers and other agencies to work together to bring long-lasting benefits to children and their families.

The data collected through this project will be very useful for a wide variety of policy and research purposes. Analysed and reported at a community level, the data will help create a snapshot of early childhood development in your community.

The data may also be linked with information from other government agencies (such as health and education departments) to inform improvements to policies and services for young children.



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How will your child's data be protected?

As so much can be learned about children's development through the collection of this data, the privacy of children included is of the most importance. Therefore, throughout this process, extreme care will be taken to ensure that individual children cannot be identified.

The data will be managed strictly in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). The APPs regulate the collection, use, disclosure and storage of personal information by Australian government agencies, and some private sector organisations, and is part of the Privacy Act 1998 (Cwth) and relevant state and territory privacy legislation.

Once the AvEDI is completed, some of the data collected will be compiled and made available to the early childhood education service your child attends as de-identified data, i.e. data that does not include any children's names, ages, addresses or service names. You can see how data collected on children in their first year of full-time school using the AvEDI was presented in 2009, 2012 and 2015 by visiting www.aedc.gov.au/data. Data from this collection will be presented for your community in a similar way.

Does my child have to participate?

Your child's participation in this research project is voluntary. Should you wish for your child/children's information to be excluded from the research project, please contact us. Please note that if you do not notify us, it is inferred that you consent to their participation and their information will be collected in accordance with the APPs.

There are no consequences for children if they do not participate in the project. However, if your child's information is not collected, the quality of the data will be affected. It is important that as many children as possible participate to ensure that robust data are produced to help shape the design and application of early childhood programs and policies.

Other research information

For NSW Department of Education public preschools this research has been approved under the State Education Research Applications Process SERAP 2017110.

For the NT Department of Education, this research has been approved under the Department of Education's Research Advisory Committee Process EDOC2017/23432.

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time.

In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may take any complaints about this research project to the Human Ethics Office at the University of Western Australia on (08) 6488 3703 or by emailing humanethics@uwa.edu.au.

All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Forms relating to this research project.

Thank you for supporting this important research project.

Mrs Josie Vescio

Acting Principal