Dear Parents

I trust you and your families are well.

Please find below a number of important points regarding your child’s registration for home education.

You may have noticed a new form on the Unit’s website, Change of personal details for home education. This form is to be used at any time during registration when details regarding you or your child change. This may include change of address, providing a copy of new or changed court orders relating to your child or adding/removing a second person with whom the Unit may discuss the details of your child’s registration. (Please be aware that the provisions in the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 state that parents must advise of an address change within 28 days). Please download this form from the website (or contact the Unit to request a copy be posted), complete and post or email to the Unit when any details regarding the registration require updating.

If your child has or will turn 17 at some point during this year, you have recently received notification confirming that your child’s registration will cease on 31 December 2018 in line with the provisions in the Act. The provisions state that “provisional registration, or registration, for home education of a child ends on 31 December in the year the child turns 17 years.”

Just a reminder that the HEU provides planning templates to assist parents in the completion of an education plan either at initial registration or at annual reporting. Please note that these templates have recently been updated and are available on the HEU website.

Please also be reminded that under the provisions of the Act, a child cannot be simultaneously registered for home education and enrolled in a school. In the event of an enrolment in a school, parents are obliged to surrender the registration and advise the Unit of the date of enrolment and the name of the school.

As demonstrated by the matters raised above, when parents register their child for home education there is a range of ongoing obligations to meet including compliance with the standard conditions of registration. These obligations are in place by force of the Act. To read more regarding your obligations, refer to the Home Education in Queensland procedure on the website or refer to the relevant provisions in the Act (sections 205 to 229) available on the Queensland Government’s in force legislation website.

If you require any clarification regarding the above, please contact the Unit.

I trust this newsletter is informative and encourage you to read the articles to assist you in your home education teaching and learning program.

Kind regards,

Madonna Fogarty
Manager
Home Education Unit

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SCOOTLE Access
Scootle is an online database of educational resources directly linked to the Australian Curriculum. Available resources include video clips, information sites, games and material to promote critical and creative thinking. Further information can be found here.

If you would like to access Scootle to support your child's home education, please contact the HEU at homeeducation@qed.qld.gov.au.

Please note that your Scootle request must be sent from the same email address the HEU has recorded on its database, and include your registered child’s name. (Parents of children who are provisionally registered are not eligible to register for free Scootle access.)

HEU ID CARDS
WHAT? A photographic identification card used to show a child is registered for home education.
WHO? Any child who is fully registered. (ID cards are not available to provisionally registered children)
WHEN? The card will be valid for your child’s registration year, or until the registration ceases.

TRANSPORT CONCESSION FARES
Department of Transport and Main Roads determine concessions. Children aged 5 to 14 years fall under the child concession category. Students aged 15 years or older are eligible for a concession fare and will need to show the HEU ID card when purchasing tickets.

HOW TO REQUEST AN ID CARD: Email an electronic passport style current photograph of your child to the Home Education Unit (blank background, head and shoulders, facing forward) homeeducation@det.qld.gov.au
Unlike passport photos, smiles are permitted.
Please include a statement that, "This is a current photo of my child (full name). Their birthday is (date); and current postal address.”

Myfuture is a national career information service developed by Education Services Australia. Their website has an exciting new page Assist your child specifically for parents and carers to access useful resources to get the career conversation started.

Australian Apprenticeship Support Network
Network providers are contracted by the Australian Government to provide free Australian Apprenticeships support services to apprentices and employers. Apprenticeship Network providers deliver support services to employers and Australian Apprentices and trainees from around 400 locations nationally, including in rural and remote areas.

Their role is to provide advice and support services tailored to the needs of employers and apprentices throughout the apprenticeship lifecycle – from pre-commencement to completion - through:

- **Universal services** for all employers and apprentices, providing essential administrative support, payment processing and regular contact; and
- **Targeted services** for employers and individuals assessed as needing additional support to complete the apprenticeship.

Pre-commencement services include screening, testing and job-matching will be available to targeted clients to get the right apprentice in the right apprenticeship with the right employer.

Targeted in-training support services including mentoring, will help apprentices and employers at-risk of not completing the apprenticeship arrangement to work through issues and difficulties.

Apprenticeship Network providers can also provide assistance to individuals who may be unsuited to an apprenticeship to identify alternative training pathways.

For more information and advice on all aspects of Australian Apprenticeships, contact your local Apprenticeship Network provider.
The Autism Hub and Reading Centre initiatives were announced in October 2015 as part of Department of Education Advancing education: an action plan for education in Queensland. The Autism Hub and Reading Centre are separate services co-located at Woolloongabba in Brisbane. Both services support the needs of school leaders, teachers, parents and caregivers through a state-wide, cross-sector advisory model.

The Autism Hub builds the capability and confidence of school leaders, teachers and parents to improve the engagement and educational achievement of students with autism. The Reading Centre provides specialist advice to educators and parents on how to teach reading and support readers, including strategies for students with dyslexia.

For more information about the Autism Hub and Reading Centre, use this link: https://ahrc.eq.edu.au/

**QTAC INFORMATION**

Thinking of tertiary study?

The 2019 QTAC Guide to Further Study is a valuable tool for all applicants and may be ordered through the QTAC website: http://www.qtac.edu.au/about-qtc/publications. This website also provides information on individual institution’s admission policies and alternative pathways for applicants who may not have formal academic qualifications.

For more information on courses, institutions, key dates & fees for applications: http://www.qtac.edu.au/

**What's on**

**FRESH FUTURES MARKET, Ipswich Showgrounds, Warwick Rd, Ipswich**

**Time:** Wednesday 5 September 2018 from 9.00am to 1.00pm

The Ipswich Fresh Futures Market, now proudly in its sixth year, is an essential free annual event for people with disabilities, their carers and families and local community, organisations and businesses.

In 2017 over 700 visitors at the event had the opportunity to participate in workshops and connect with 80 stall holders representing mainstream and disability-specific services, businesses and employment opportunities.

So, if you are:

- living with a disability or mental illness
- wondering what to do once you’ve finished school
- caring for a young person or adult with a disability
- looking for realistic options for your future, then this market is for you!

For more information, phone 3810 6646, email karri.browne@ipswich.qld.gov.au, or click on the link below: https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/community/disability/fresh-futures-market
The Corner: Children's Picture Diaries
Runs every day from 10:00am – 3:00pm until 30th Nov 2018 (free).
The Corner is for children aged to 8 years where they can interact with artists through art-making, facilitated play and sharing stories. View more information about this event. Free.

Hickory Dickory Rock with Tim Jackman
Every week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (free) from 11am – 12 noon until further notice. Tim Jackman hickory dickory rocks The Corner! No bookings required. Join him for an all singing, all dancing, wild Woodstock-like ride of nursery rhymes and songs perfect for children under eight years old, their parents, carers and friends. View more information about this event or phone 38407927

Use the following State Library of Queensland link to find your local library and to see what’s happening in your region: http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/visit-us/find-a-public-library.

• 65th Queensland Science Contest 2018 presented by the Science Teachers Association of Queensland. The Queensland Science Contest is an opportunity for Queensland students from Prep to Grade 12 to have their scientific work judged for awards and prizes.

2nd June 2018 to 21st October 2018
Dinosaur rEvolution: Secrets of Survival
Dinosaur rEvolution: Secrets of Survival explores the predatory prehistoric world of dinosaurs with animatronics, 3D models and fossil casts that visitors can touch. The exhibits are also backed with close-to-life-sized murals of all the protagonist species, fully fleshed, feathered and restored in living and breathing colours.

70 – 102 Flinders Street, Townsville City

Feature Article from The Conversation April 2, 2018

Five tips to help you make the most of reading to your children

Authors

Margaret Kristin Merga – Senior Lecturer in Education, Curtin University

Paul Gardner – Senior Lecturer: Literacy Education, Curtin University
Reading to your child is one of the most successful ways of instilling a love of reading in them. But in our recent study, more than one-quarter of primary-school-aged respondents claimed they were never read to at home.

Children typically enjoy being read to, and see educational, social and emotional benefits to the practice. But families are busy, and finding time to read aloud can be eaten up by the demands of everyday life.

Not all parents have been read to themselves as children, so may not have experienced a model they can then follow with their own children. And many adult Australians may be struggling readers themselves.

With this in mind, here are five suggestions that can help make the experience of reading to your children fun, relaxing and educational.

1. Give it all your attention

For many people, the best time to read with their children is at night, once the children are in bed. But if you find your child too cranky and disengaged at this time (or if you are feeling tired yourself), you might want to try reading to them earlier in the day.

Read more: Three easy ways to get your kids to read better and enjoy it

Whatever the time, it’s important to give the book and your children all of your attention. Phones and other devices with enabled notifications should be switched off. Everyone should be comfortable, and children should associate time spent being read to with enjoyment.

Where possible, we strongly suggest reading to your child becomes part of the daily routine. The more often children are read to, the more substantial the benefits. Reading to children is both an opportunity to model how the written word sounds and a chance for family bonding.

2. Engage with the story

Children don’t typically enjoy having the story stopped every few seconds for comprehension checking, so we suggest you keep interruptions to a minimum.

But recapping is useful when picking up a book again after a break. If parents let their children provide this recap (“So, where are we up to?”) this also enables informal comprehension checking. Opportunities for prediction are also beneficial (“Wow… what do you think might happen next!”).

Sharing your response to a book and encouraging children’s responses stimulates critical thinking. These techniques and others can enhance learning and comprehension, but they shouldn’t upset the fluidity of the reading experience or turn it into a test. You can share the task of the reading itself with your children if they want to. This is beneficial for a range of reading skills, such as reading comprehension, word recognition and vocabulary building.
3. There’s no age limit

You can start reading to your child from early infancy to support their developing language abilities, so it's never too early to start. The skills infants and young children develop through shared reading experiences can set them up for literacy achievement in their subsequent schooling years.

_We should read aloud to children for as long as possible._

*Read more: Research shows the importance of parents reading with children – even after children can read*

Reading to your children remains important beyond the early years, too, with continuing benefits for literacy development and cognitive skills. We should read to young people for as long as possible. There is no age where the benefits of being read to completely expire.

Very recent research in the UK found struggling adolescent readers can make remarkable gains on their reading comprehension when books are read to them at school. This is perhaps due to the opportunity for students to enjoy books that are too hard for them to read themselves.

4. Pick a book you both enjoy

We suggest you select a book that interests both you and your child. Reading together is a great opportunity to share your passions while broadening your children’s horizons through making diverse book choices.

Don’t be afraid to start reading chapter books to your children while they are still very young. The age to begin this will vary depending on your child’s attention span, but it's often possible to begin this with preschoolers.

As long as the story isn’t too complex, children love to be taken on an enjoyable journey into books that are too hard for them to read independently. This can also help to extend child’s vocabulary, among other benefits.

It’s a good idea to take your children to the library and model how you choose interesting books for shared reading. Research shows many primary and high school children are easily overwhelmed by choice when they attempt to pick what books to read independently, so helping them with this is a valuable skill.

*Read more: How building your child’s spoken word bank can boost their capacity to read*

5. Don’t worry about your style

Not all of us are destined to be award-winning voice actors, and that’s OK. It's great to use expression and adopt different voices for the characters in a book, but not everyone will feel able to do this.

At multiple points in our research, we’ve come across people who have praised the reading efforts of parents who weren’t confident readers, but who prevailed nonetheless.

For example, in our recent paper a respondent described being read to by her mother who struggled with dyslexia. This mother, and many other parents, have inspired a love of reading in their children through their persistence.

Being taken into the virtual reality of story is a memorable, pleasurable experience that stays with us forever. Reading aloud provides parents with a valuable opportunity to slow down, relax and share the wonderful world of books with their children.

*To read the full article, please click on this link The Conversation*