



Information
for parents/
guardians

Language, culture, understanding.

**Early Learning Languages Australia
F-2 schools trial**

ELLA is an Australian Government initiative.

www.ella.edu.au





Unlock their world through language.

What is ELLA?

'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

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

ELLA has already been successfully integrated into thousands of preschools across Australia. It has had overwhelmingly positive feedback from families and educators. Now, the Australian Government is providing funding to extend the ELLA program into schools through a trial for students in Foundation to Year 2. Over the 2019–21 school years, ELLA will be trialled in 300 schools.

Your child's school is participating in the ELLA trial over the full three years. Foundation students commence in 2019, Year 1 students in 2020 and Year 2 students in 2021.

How does ELLA work?

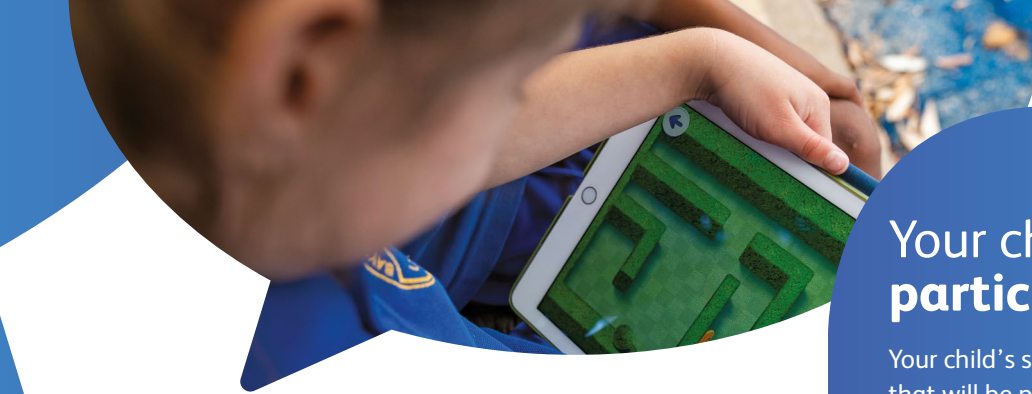
ELLA introduces students to learning a new language via interactive tablet apps, which have been developed in consultation with experts in languages, early childhood and technology. The Polyglots are a cast of characters who – through play-based learning – introduce the students to words, sentences and 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 school has selected one of the following languages: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek, Spanish or Vietnamese. Korean and Turkish will be available from 2020.

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 at the school.

All ELLA apps are aligned to the Australian Curriculum: Languages for F–2.





Your child's participation in ELLA

Your child's school is one of the 300 Australian schools that will be participating in the ELLA trial.

However, individual participation is voluntary. It is your choice as parent/guardian whether your child participates in the ELLA trial.

The school will provide a parent/guardian consent form for you to complete. If you agree to your child participating, you can expect the following things:

- Your child will have the opportunity to use the apps on a tablet device at certain times while at the school.
- 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 and a photo of an object that has meaning to them (eg a sketch of themselves or another piece of their artwork) 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.
- An independent evaluator may attend the school to observe the trial in action; they would undertake an assessment of the trial and deliver a report to the Australian Government.
- Aggregate data, analytics and results from the ELLA trial (none of which identify your child or their 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 early learning of languages in Australia.

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

Note: the school's name and location will appear on a publicly available list on the ELLA website.

You are encouraged to discuss any concerns about the ELLA trial with your child's school in the first instance. If you have any questions about ELLA or the trial that your school has been unable to answer, please contact the ELLA helpdesk at ella@esa.edu.au or 1800 468 303.

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.

Students 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 by students as they learn to read and write. ELLA will help develop foundation skills, such as learning colours, 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 the tablets and 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, to share home languages, and to strengthen links between families and schools.

Is ELLA available for home use?

The ELLA apps are to be used at school for the trial, and so are not available to be downloaded at home. However, you can ask your child's teacher to show you the apps in Demo mode, or you can visit the ELLA website at www.ella.edu.au to find out more about the apps.



Privacy notice

ESA and the Australian Government Department of Education and Training 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 the ELLA program and trial. We will only use personal information for the purposes for which we collected it or as otherwise allowed or required under law, and disclose personal information where we are allowed or required to do so under law. 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/contact-us/privacy) and the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (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 school, 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