

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Re: Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)

Our school is participating in a national collection of information on young children's development. It is called the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI). The Australian Government has committed \$15.9 million for the national roll-out of the AEDI which is being conducted by the Centre for Community Child Health (at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne and a key research centre of the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute), in partnership with the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Perth.

The AEDI is a checklist of over 100 questions. It is completed by your child's teacher. The AEDI Checklist looks at five areas of child development:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills and
- communication skills and general knowledge

The aims of collecting the information are to:

- help communities to understand how their children are developing by the time they reach school age
- help schools, local agencies and early childhood professionals to work together to improve the outcomes for all children in the community.

Checklists will be completed by your child's teacher in _____. It does not require your child to be taken out of class. You do not need to do anything and neither does your child.

Summary data from the analysis of the checklists will be available to the community based on whole groups of children in a way that means no-one will be able to identify your child.

Data may also be combined with information from other organisations in order to better understand how programs and policies for young children might best work. Under current privacy laws, no-one is allowed to identify your child's data.

If you would like more information about the AEDI visit www.aedi.org.au or contact the AEDI National Support Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne on 1300 558 422 or contact the school.

If you do not want the information about your child to be collected please contact the school.

This is a great opportunity for parents, schools and other agencies to work together in the best interests of our children. Thank you for supporting the AEDI.

PRINCIPAL