EDUCATION INSTITUTE

The hospital space is a learning place
RCH patient Jera with RCH teacher Erin
Keep your child’s learning on track

Missing school doesn’t mean missing out on learning. Your child’s education can continue at The Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH), thanks to our team of teachers.

Your child can enjoy learning in hospital, with activities tailored to their health and education needs and their interests.

The RCH Education Institute is funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training. Our qualified kindergarten, primary and secondary teachers can offer group learning sessions on the wards or lessons in patients’ rooms, based on an assessment of medical and education needs.

We can also help you to communicate with your child’s school or kindergarten, and offer advice on what you can do to assist your child’s learning.

Artwork by Maya, 4 years
A rich learning experience in hospital

Our teachers create learning opportunities throughout the hospital, and will use a variety of spaces and activities to excite and inspire your child.

We offer an evidence-based program built on high-impact teaching strategies and proven methods of engaging students in learning.

We offer an arts-based program—drawing on a range of external partnerships (see page 14)—to support the personalised learning plan we create for your child.

This learning plan is prepared in partnership with your child’s regular learning environment, and our program links to the same curriculum. This may include literacy, numeracy, digital technologies, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical understanding, and intercultural understanding.

For secondary students, we focus on supporting tasks assigned by their school. We also offer creative programs that support the development of enterprise skills, the transferable skills required in many jobs.
‘Thank you for giving our child an opportunity to learn new things. My daughter has a big smile on her face when she sees her teacher.’
Connecting hospital, school and home

We can help to connect your child’s hospital-, home- and school-based learning.

We collaborate with your child’s school or kindergarten to create a personalised learning plan. And we can suggest simple, effective ways you can support your child’s learning at home.

We can also help you manage any concerns you have about your child returning to their regular learning environment. We can liaise with the school or kindergarten to support a smooth transition for your child.
CELEBRATING KIDS’ LEARNING

We make learning fun via music, filmmaking, visual arts and more. And we love to celebrate and share our students’ learning.

Our teachers can tell you about our publishing projects, and our Jumbunna Film and Music Festival, an annual event that showcases our students’ achievements.
There’s more to kindergarten than fun and games. Research shows that kindergarten improves children’s wellbeing, helps them to develop social skills, and encourages a love of learning. It also indicates that missing out on a quality preschool program can have significant and ongoing impacts on a child’s education.

Our hospital kindergarten program is led by qualified early childhood educators who, through engaging, play-based learning, help prepare your child for school.
More than one in five Australian children are vulnerable in at least one area of their development when they begin school, according to the Australian Early Development Census National Report 2015. Our kindergarten program can help you to give your child the best start.

The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework outlines what all children should learn between birth and eight years. Its five outcomes guide all registered kindergarten programs, including ours:

- children have a strong sense of identity
- children are connected with and contribute to their world
- children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- children are confident and involved learners
- children are effective communicators.
‘The teachers were fantastic. They provided space that was both fun and educational. They knew when to push and when not to if my child was too unwell. It really made getting back to school much easier.’
Safe and supportive

We take great care to ensure that the learning program we tailor for your child prioritises their health needs. Our teachers work closely with RCH medical and allied health teams to understand any restrictions or special needs.

Research shows that feeling isolated or lonely is one of the biggest predictors of students disengaging with education and learning. In group learning, our teachers provide a safe and supportive environment for your child to communicate and collaborate with their peers.
Applying for tertiary study? We can help you with your SEAS (Special Entry Access Scheme) application if your education has been impacted by health issues.
Doing the VCE in hospital

Our teaching team has a range of skills and professional experience to support secondary school learning, including the VCE and VCAL. A hospital stay can be very disruptive during the important senior years. Our teachers will liaise with your child’s regular teachers to ensure that their school work can be supported in hospital.

VCE (or state equivalent) students are matched to teachers and teacher volunteers with specialist skills to help them keep on top of their studies during a hospital stay. Some students may even sit their VCE examinations in hospital under the supervision of Education Institute teachers.

Secondary and VCE students are also encouraged to take part in creative learning projects in the hospital, including filmmaking, art and design activities and book publishing.

Artwork by Sam, 16 years
Partnerships that make learning fun

We bring exciting learning opportunities to the hospital by partnering with a range of cultural organisations, including the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Zoo, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Victorian Opera, The Australian Chamber Orchestra and others.

We also provide creative opportunities for students of all ages to work alongside practising artists and designers, writers and musicians. This supports student engagement and opportunities for collaborative learning and self-expression.
RCH patient Kendyl with artist David Booth (Ghostpatrol)

Collaborative artwork by RCH patients, inspired by an NGV exhibition
Our fun, free apps

You can engage your child in learning with our two award-winning apps: Create Explore Learn and Ed and the Curious Crew. Free and fun, the apps feature activities and videos that relate to the RCH — there’s something for everyone.

Our apps offer learning experiences that cater for a variety of interests and skill levels. They’re also a cool way for your child to share their hospital experience with their friends and classmates.
Your child can join Ed and the Curious Crew to explore behind-the-scenes at the RCH. This free app explores themes like fundraising, education and sustainability via games, activities and videos.

Shortlisted as one of the world’s best apps for kids in the 2016 Webby Awards, it includes learning prompts tailored for kindergarten, primary and secondary students.

With our free Create Explore Learn app, your child can create wonderful artworks, explore exciting places and learn about the interesting creatures and fantastic features of The Royal Children’s Hospital. Definitely one for the meerkat fans!

Find learning resources to support this app at www.rchcreate.com
RCH patient Josephine
The Royal Children’s Hospital Education Institute

Suite 1.4, Level 1
48 Flemington Road, Parkville, Victoria 3052 Australia
Telephone +61 3 9345 9700
Facsimile +61 3 9345 6600
Email education.institute@rch.org.au
www.rch.org.au/education

Contact us via phone or email or ask your Nurse Unit Manager to put you in touch with one of our teachers.

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Collaborative artwork by RCH patients