



A Caring Institution

Early Childhood Care and Education Authority

Information Note for Parents



June 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents,

It is indeed a great pleasure for us at the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority to warmly welcome your child to our pre-primary school. As an Authority responsible for provision and regulation of Pre Primary Education in Mauritius, the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority (ECCEA) is fully committed to provide quality pre-primary education to all children of the Republic of Mauritius within a safe, inclusive and child friendly environment.

This Information Note aims at informing you about the rules, regulations and the activities concerning the school so that you can better support the education of your child at home and participate actively in school activities.

As you may know the first five years of a child's development is critical to unfold his potential. It is our aim to ensure that all children develop basic skills, knowledge and competencies in order to be ready for school.

Early Childhood Education lays the foundation upon which the child will build later more complex skills and competencies. It is therefore important for schools and parents to work together to provide a caring and stimulating environment and address the needs of each and every child.

I therefore rely on your collaboration along with our dedicated staff to work in the best interest of your child.

Wishing your child a joyous and memorable preschool experience.



Mrs M.A.C Arekion
Director, ECCEA
June 2021

The **Early Childhood Care and Education Authority (ECCEA)** is a parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology which promotes and provides pre-school education and services in the Republic of Mauritius.

VISION

Provision of quality preschool education within a safe, inclusive and child friendly environment.

MISSION

The ECCEA aims at providing equal access for all children to quality pre schooling including those at risk of delayed development and disabilities and those coming from conditions of vulnerability, through a child-centered and play-based approach, with the involvement of the parents.

ECCEA Pre-primary schools

Admission to ECCEA pre-primary schools is open to all children aged 3– 5 years and is free of charge.

PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

In all public pre-primary schools there is a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA promotes the building of good relationships by helping parents recognize their role in the education of their children and their involvement in school activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PTA

To ensure effective involvement of all parents.

To support the partnership between the school and the community.

To provide information to parents on all issues regarding their child's progress and overall development.

MEMBERSHIP

All parents are eligible to become a member of the PTA.

(i) The Managing Committee should comprise of teachers who usually hold office as Treasurer and Secretary, and 5 representatives of parents.

(ii) Parent should make a yearly contribution of Rs 200.

(iii) A receipt will be issued by the treasurer upon payment.

(iv) All expenses incurred from the PTA fund should have prior approval of the Managing/Executive Committee .

It is recommended that all parents form part of the PTA and regularly attend meetings. Any parent member can be elected to act as a member of the Managing Committee.

PTA cash book should be kept under the responsibility of the treasurer and kept at school and should be available for inspection/auditing purposes by both the ECCEA and the Registrar of Association.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

All public pre-primary schools are under the responsibility of the ECCEA Inspectorate. The Head Master/Mistress is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Pre-primary unit.

Teachers are responsible to implement the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and should ensure the well-being of each child.

School supervision will be carried out by Assistant Coordinators on a regular basis for quality assurance.

NORMAL HOURS OF OPERATION

The normal hours of operation of ECCEA pre-primary unit is as from 8.50 am to 14.00 hours. Parents are authorised to drop their child in the morning as from 8.30 am. (Parents are not allowed to drop their child during Primary school assembly). **No child should be left unattended in the school premise.**

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school terms will be the same as for Primary

Term	From	To
Term I	Monday 5 July 2021	Friday 27 August 2021
Term II	Monday 13 September 2021	Friday 03 December 2021
Term III	Monday 10 January 2022	Friday 15 April 2022

The Preschool Unit is closed during Primary School Achievement Certificate exams (PSAC) and usually follows the early dismissals same as the Primary School. (In case of flash floods, cyclones, etc)

EARLY ARRIVAL OR LATE DEPARTURE AND REPEATED ABSENCES

Parents should drop in and pick up their child on time.

Parents should seek approval from the educator and the Head Master (HM) for all early departures and submit explanations for late arrival of children.

Parents will be called to explain in writing the reasons for repeated late/early arrivals, departures and absences.

In extreme cases where the guardian does not come to pick up the child within school hours, the HM and the ECCEA will have no alternative but to report the child to the nearest police station where necessary steps will then be taken to contact the parents/ guardian.

PERSONS ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN TO AND FROM SCHOOL

In case any person other than the parents/ guardian is to accompany the child, he or she should be introduced in advance to the pre-school staff by the responsible party and the person should produce his or her National ID card **along with a written consent letter signed by the parents or guardian.**

THE PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Early childhood education promotes child centred, play-based and integrated approaches. Children develop rapidly during the first years of life. Quality adult-child relationship and interaction, movement and play activities are essential for children's healthy development. Children at this age learn and develop through play. Quality Early childhood program provides ample opportunities for play.

The ECCEA also promotes an inclusive approach as we believe that if children are given the appropriate care and education, they can learn, develop and reach their full potential through a play-based and caring approach. Pre-Primary schools in collaboration with parents work to foster the overall development of the child that is his or her *physical, intellectual, social, emotional, moral and spiritual development.*

ENSURING THE PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD: Children start building a sense of self through self-awareness. They become aware of themselves, their feelings and develop independence and self-regulation. They learn to relate effectively to others, they also learn to respect and care for others in a multicultural context.

DEVELOPING THE EXPRESSIVE, CREATIVE AND AESTHETIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD: Children develop their creativity through exploring and observing their environment and interacting with peers and other adults through pre-primary school programs which make provision for activities that encourage them to use their imagination to express their opinions, feelings and ideas, using a variety of art, media, music, storytelling and movement.

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO DEVELOP MATHEMATICAL AND LOGICAL THINKING: Children learn mathematical concepts through a variety of activities in everyday life experiences. Through daily activities, the child will be given a multitude of opportunities to explore mathematical ideas and concepts such as number, size, colour, weight, height and time.

PROMOTING THE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

Physical exercise and play constitute an important strategy for learning at this age. The pre-primary school program provides opportunities for the child to develop his/her fine and gross motor skills and to engage in different types of play activities

DEVELOPING THE COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SKILLS OF THE CHILD: Children learn to use language to communicate their experiences and feelings and to interact in different settings. They develop their oral (listening/speaking) and written skills (reading/ writing) through involvement in a range of developmentally appropriate activities.

PROMOTING BED TIME STORY: Story reading at bed time brings a sense of structure and control, helps develop good sleeping habits, and provides an extra opportunity to strengthen family bonding. Reading with a child at home not only increases academic ability, but it also fosters a lifelong love of books. Parents are encouraged to adopt reading at bed time.

DOCUMENTS FOR RECORD KEEPING

DEVELOPMENTAL LEARNER PROFILE (DLP)

The DLP is an informal assessment tool for teachers to monitor and record each child's developmental progress. The DLP will be handed over to parents upon completion of Preschool Program for onward transmission to the Grade I Teacher.

THE CHILD'S PORFOLIO

The child's portfolio can include samples of the child's drawings, painting, writing and other creative work

OPEN DAYS

The school will organise Open Days each term for parents to come to school to meet the teacher to discuss on the child's progress and have a first-hand view of what has been achieved to better support the child at home.

During open days teachers will have the opportunity to discuss with parents about the child's work contained in the Portfolio. It is strongly recommended for parents to attend these meetings.

HOME SCHOOL TRANSITION

School is a new environment where the child will have to adapt and learn new rules. In order to ensure a smooth transition from home to school both the family and school will need to prepare the child.

TIPS FROM HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSITION

- Talk to your child about the new school.
- Involve him in the preparation (shopping, visit of the school, meeting with the new teacher).
- Accompany the child at school and stay with him for few hours during the first few weeks.
- Inculcate a routine at home (sleep, meal, toileting) to adjust to school life.

GUIDELINE FOR THE ORGANISATION OF EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION

The school organises at least one educational excursion per term that is meant strictly for pre-primary school children.

Educational excursions should be considered as structured learning experiences which form part of the Pre School Curriculum.

APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

- Preparations for the educational outings should begin at least two months before the departure date and be finalised one month in advance.
- Educational outings are organised and supervised by educators in consultation with parents and the Head Master . All educational outings must be approved by the ECCEA Regional Office.
- One parent will be allowed to accompany children.
- The HM also may delegate a Primary staff to accompany children.
- Parents will be informed beforehand of the details and the desired outcomes for the educational outing, the cost, itinerary, activities, clothing requirements, hygiene and medical requirements if any.

Parents need to give their authorisation for their children to participate in the educational outings.

The outing will be during school hours .

SANITARY MEASURES AGAINST CORONA VIRUS

All ECCEA preschools will abide by the COVID 19 Protocol established by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology regarding sanitary & social distancing measures.

Parents are reminded that they would need to produce evidence of vaccination as and when required.

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