

Dear Principal

Thank you for agreeing to meet with one of our third year Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education) student, with a view to considering a teaching placement in your school.

Our pre-service teachers are enrolled in a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education) degree offered through Open Universities Australia. They follow the same program that is offered at Curtin University. Instead of attending classes, they participate in learning experiences in an online learning environment. Pre-service teachers participate in a range of activities over a study period of 13 weeks (equivalent to one on campus semester). Each unit requires around 8-10 hours of pre-service teachers participation every week.

Professional Experience is an integral part of Curtin University education degrees, so in addition to their study, students have school practicum requirements. Each student is required to teach in a different school on each Professional Experience (or practicum), in order to be exposed to as wide a variety of learning environments as possible. Students may teach in Government, Catholic or Independent schools. Pre-service teachers are not permitted to teach in schools where family members are on staff or attending as pupils. Overseas students may do their practicum in an International School where English is the language of instruction.

In third year students are required to complete four weeks in a Kindergarten/Reception/Foundation / Pre-Primary in a School context 3-5 years. Students have already completed a second year placement in a Junior Primary year 1 to 3 context. Following on in third year is the Early Learning Centre placement followed in fourth year with a one School Term Internship within a school setting.

Before students can undertake a professional experience placement in a school, they must have:

- A Working with Children Clearance (WWC)
- A signed Code of Conduct agreement

We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting our student(s) in your school on their Professional Experience. We are keen to support both the student and you as a school. If you have any further questions or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Jerelyn Tierney

Unit Coordinator - School of Education