Pilot update

We are pleased to share with you the delivery plan of Working Together (WT) for the next two years.

The Tasmanian Government initiative opens up opportunities for eligible children to participate in free, quality early learning in the year before they start kindergarten.

It follows a successful pilot between February and July 2019, which involved 51 children attending 10 early learning centres.

The Minister for Education and Training Jeremy Rockliff has officially launched the delivery plan for 2020–21.

The name of the initiative has changed from Working Together for 3 Year Olds (WT3) to Working Together – Supporting early learning (WT) as a result of feedback received during the pilot.

A ‘learn and adapt as we go’ approach will be used for WT, building on the successful co-design approach used in the pilot. This involved families and service partners worked together to reduce barriers to participation experienced by eligible children.

WT will grow in stages, opening up 120 places per year in Year One (2020) and Year Two (2021). That’s 240 children who will be able to access free, quality early learning.

These places will be available across approximately 20 Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sites.

The opportunity will initially be offered in locations with higher numbers of eligible 0–4 year olds.

In addition to the existing nine pilot suburbs, a further 17 locations will be involved in 2020–21:


Every two years thereafter, more places will be opened up in a targeted way.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the pilot and we look forward to working with you to ensure all children have the opportunity to grow and thrive.

To find out more about the pilot and implementation plan for 2020-2021, visit our new website or contact the WT team: WT@education.tas.gov.au
The Working Together (WT) model

The WT model incorporates four inter-connected elements to embed the foundations of success in the initiative and deliver the desired outcomes:

» opening up access to opportunity
» addressing barriers
» investing in the ECEC sector
» enabling supports.

1. Opening up access to opportunity
   Free early learning places

2. Addressing Barriers
   Holistic support for the child and family

3. Investing in the ECEC Sector
   Capability development

4. Enabling supports
   Capacity building resources to address barriers to participation

Join us: help children thrive and grow

The Department of Education’s project team is hosting a series of information sessions for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services interested in becoming partners for 2020-21 and are considering submitting an expression of interest (EOI) in October 2019.

The expression of interest (EOI) process will open this month. It will determine up to 20 ECEC sites to deliver opportunities through WT.

To download a companion guide to submitting your EOI or to access the online EOI form visit the Working Together website. Submissions close at 11.55pm 31 October, 2019.

Working Together Early Learning Consultant Hayley Perkins is able to answer any questions you may have. She can be contacted via email: hayley.perkins@education.tas.gov.au

Optional Information Sessions:

The Department of Education’s project team is facilitating a series of regional information sessions, to meet with people interested in collaborating through WT.

» South – Hobart – 22 October, 2019
» North West – Devonport – 28 October, 2019
» North – Launceston – 29 October, 2019

Details on how to register are available on our webpage: www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/projects/working-together/delivery-over-2020-21/
Marking Marks exhibition

The Making Marks art exhibition, which showcases art works by Tasmanian artists from birth to four years of age, is on at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG).

The exhibition celebrates, nurtures and supports the voice of the child through art.

It is a collaboration between B4 Early Years Coalition (B4), Early Childhood Australia (ECA) Tasmania, National ECA Conference Organising Committee, Lady Gowrie Tasmania, Goodstart Early Learning, Northern Children’s Network, All That We Are, Dr Barbara Piscitelli AM and TMAG.

The exhibition is on until October 13, 2019. The picture above is by Arlo Highton. It is entitled: ‘Squiggles: car in the woods.’

Working Together in the media

The Working Together (WT) announcement featured in the media last week. It included the stories of some of the families who were part of the pilot.

What families are telling us is great about Working Together

“I didn’t have much hope for my child before. I thought he would be straight to the too hard basket. But after this and all the help, I’ve got so much hope for him. I’ve never been so excited for his future.”

“[My child] has developed social skills and confidence as a result of spending the 15 hours in early learning every week. I have noticed a big change in how he is interacting with other children. He loves coming to ‘his school’ and he can’t wait to play with his friends! The educators at the centre are genuine, beautiful ladies. As soon as we walk through the door they welcome you and say everything is going to be OK”.

“All I want is everybody working together for [my child] and myself to make me a better person, and a better parent, and to give [my child] the best of the best for their life”.

“[My child] is very happy and she no longer cries when I leave her. She has also learned how to share and play well with others. This has been great for our family because it means [my child] now shares and plays nicely with her brother!”

To subscribe to our monthly newsletter electronically, visit: education.tas.gov.au/WT3

Working Together

Early Years Partnerships and Projects
Strategy and Performance, Department of Education
Professional Learning Institute – 9 Timsbury Road, Glenorchy GPO Box 169, Hobart, TAS 7001
WT@education.tas.gov.au www.education.tas.gov.au