



## ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

*The parent voice on public education*

# Early Learning Parent Representative

## Benefits for students, parents, and schools

Building strong school-family connections early on creates lasting benefits for students, families, and schools. By getting involved, you can help shape a thriving and supportive school community while positively impacting your child's wellbeing and education.

## Why get involved?

Being part of your child's school community has profound benefits. Research shows that when parents actively engage in their child's learning, it enhances their academic success, confidence, and overall happiness at school.

Here are some of the key benefits of getting involved:

- Strengthen your child's sense of belonging.
- Build meaningful relationships with other families.
- Contribute to a positive and welcoming school environment.
- Gain insights into your child's learning journey.

The great news is that there are countless ways to get involved, and your level of participation can adapt to your schedule and interests. Whether big or small, every effort makes a difference.

## Welcome, Invite, Connect

School P&Cs help to ensure every family feels welcome, valued, and connected. Here's how we make it happen:

- [Welcome parents](#) with enthusiasm, ensuring they can access important information and know how to get in touch with the school and P&C.
- Invite parents to participate in events, share ideas, and engage with school activities.
- Connect families with meaningful projects, opportunities to collaborate, and one another.

When parents and families feel welcome and are regularly invited to connect with their school, they are more inclined to participate, develop trusting relationships, and engage positively with children's learning.

Early learning parent representatives are members of the school P&C association and belong to the community they represent. They help provide the early learning parent perspective to the P&C and school.

## The Role of the Early Learning Parent Representative (ELPR)

As an Early Learning Parent Representative, you're not just a member of the P&C—you're a bridge between the school and early years families. Your role ensures the voices of preschool and kindergarten families are heard, and their unique perspectives are reflected in P&C decisions. By fostering connections, you'll contribute to building a strong, supportive community for everyone.

### What Does an ELPR Do?

Here are some of the ways an ELPR can make a difference:

- Facilitate connections between parents, the P&C, and early learning staff.
- Share key updates, dates, and resources with early years families.
- Provide feedback and insights from parents to the P&C.
- Organize events or activities to engage and welcome new families.
- Attend P&C meetings to represent the voices of early learning parents.

### Benefits of Early Community Building

Being an Early Learning Parent Representative enables you to:

- Foster a sense of belonging for families new to the school.
- Strengthen communication and collaboration between parents and the school.
- Ensure families feel supported and valued as key contributors to the school's success.

A positive start to school is a powerful way to ensure children are engaged in learning and happy at school, with families feeling confident within their school community.

### Council ELPR Resources

To help you in your role, the ACT Council of P&C Associations offers a range of resources:

- Council's Early Learning [webpage](#)
- Council's early learning officer, [email](#)
- Promo pack of communication resources and,
- [Reference guide](#) for early years parents



## Sample Role Description:

### Early Learning Parent Representative (P&C Committee role)

The ELPR helps establish a supportive parent/carer community through preschool/kindy families.

The Parent Representative helps P&Cs to connect with early years parents. There is no limit on the number of representatives (historically, all preschools had a parent committee). A subcommittee can be formed where the parents and carers can provide sufficient support. This role should be reviewed annually and can be adapted to suit your P&C's priorities.

### Key Responsibilities:

The role might focus on one or more of the following:

- Attend and report at P&C meetings.
- Consult with the school's early learning contacts and Council's EL Officer.
- Coordinate annual early learning activities, events, and/or information.
- Review existing opportunities to engage EL families.
- Invite EL parents to provide feedback to the P&C.

### Contact

Marina Spurgin, [Early Learning Officer](#),  
ACT Council of P&C Association