

ELSA in Action

**Annesley Junior School
Early Learning Centre
Adelaide**

Annesley Junior School Early Learning Centre

At Annesley's Early Learning Centre, all students participate in Units Of Inquiry from the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP). Students have many opportunities to engage in hands-on projects that they initiate and lead with support from teachers and co-educators. The learning program in Annesley's Early Learning Centre (ELC) is influenced by Reggio Emilia's international best practice philosophy and also guided by both the IB PYP and the National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). These frameworks help to ensure children participate in a play-based learning program with emphasis on communication and language, including early literacy and numeracy.



Playing the ELSA apps



Children doing dance moves according to numbers



Using position cards with the doll's house



Christiana Schammer
Preschool teacher

“ I think all of the ELSA and ERA experiences and the language can only be an asset to Foundation year and to further on. You start here [with ELSA], but you wouldn't just do it as a stand-alone preschool program. It is a great place to start as they take those skills and that language with them. ”



Working with educators from around Australia

“ It's been great with me being able to demonstrate the apps on the big screen so that my co-workers who are not as qualified are actually learning alongside and know where we are going and they are actually creating ideas. When we were making the instruments on the app, they said we could take a screenshot of that and print some cards and put it on the big table we use as our making space, and we can actually physically make the drums and the guitars and use the plan. ”

“ I have gained the awareness that children are able to cope with more than you expect and that you can introduce quite complex topics and terminology and the children will take what they can out of it. In the past I might not have exposed them to tricky concepts but, actually, they are very capable. ”



Learning with educators from around Australia

“ Another thing I've gained from ELSA are connections Australia-wide. We keep in touch a bit with email and through the community of practice. Unless you are further up the chain, you don't tend to have those opportunities to meet other teachers beyond your local area. Georgie, another ELSA Educator, and I have made a great connection. We are close in a geographical sense and work in a very similar kind of setting. Next week we are presenting about ELSA to the Independent Schools meeting. ”

