



Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Dear foster and kinship carers

The Term 2 [home-based learning model](#) started yesterday for many students across Queensland. This is a back-to-school like no other!

For the next five weeks, all children who are able to be supervised at home are to stay at home for their schooling.

Education Queensland has also advised that schools, early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care services are open for children who currently receive services from Child Safety or who are in out-of-home care. Children will be supervised and will participate in the same learning program as children who are learning at home.

I know that many carers have explored the options available with their child safety service centre and decided to keep the children in their care at home. I fully appreciate the complexities of your households, the individual needs of children and young people in your care, and the extra challenges this decision may bring.

Understandably, there were some teething issues as a result of the huge volume of parents, carers and students logging on to access their learning@home online resources. Education Queensland are also responding to questions over how schools will distribute laptops and SIM cards for families in need.

Please don't worry too much if you haven't been able to access the learning resources you need as yet. Education Queensland is working hard to make sure that children have what they need to learn from home.

Remember, you're not expected to do the same job as a professional teacher, and we know children won't show the same level of concentration at home as they would in their classrooms. So be kind on yourselves and just do what you can each day.

When school does return to normal, the teachers will be ready and they'll know how to get the children back on track with their learning. It will be best for children to return to school happy and healthy, and ready physically and mentally to continue their learning.

These are challenging times as we adapt to new ways of working and learning. But I know that together, we can get through this over the next few weeks.

If you have any questions about home-based learning difficulties you may be experiencing, please talk to your child's school in the first instance.

Of course, you can also talk to your child safety officer or foster and kinship care service. And don't forget, you can now call the Foster and Kinship Care Support Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1300 729 309 for support.



Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

If you are looking for other online supports for talking to children and young people about COVID 19, family routines and lots of great advice about parenting then have a look at the Parenting Research Centre's website [raising children](#) guide.

As always, please look after yourself, your family and friends.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin

Director-General

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

