

Learning planning for children and young people in OOHC: carer's guide

As a foster or kinship carer you play a crucial role in supporting children and young people in your care to participate and achieve the best outcomes at school.

Learning and support planning

When a child or young person enters out-of-home care (OOHC), their caseworker will tell the Department of Education and School Principal that they are in care. The school will then start the personalised learning and support planning process (formerly Education planning).

1. Identifying the child or young person's individual needs

- The School Principal, your caseworker, you, the student (if appropriate) and any other relevant professionals will work together to identify the child or young person's individual learning and support needs.
- A holistic assessment of learning and support needs is informed by analysis of data. Information from the child or young person's Health Management Plan (where available), previous school records, as well as any previous education planning documentation will be used.

2. Developing personalised learning and support planning

- A number of supports based on the assessed needs of the student will be developed. The supports will be documented in teacher's plans, records of educational and social-emotional interventions for the student, plans for individual student learning, communication, behaviour, health care and transition and learning materials (if applicable).
- The caseworker will save this documentation in place of the former Education Plan.

3. Monitoring the impact of learning and support planning

- Supports for a student are regularly monitored, reviewed at least annually and adapted and changed where needed, to continue to meet the assessed needs of the student. Monitoring and review will be informed by student progress data, meeting records, data specific to behaviour, health care, communication, attendance and learning achievement.
- The school will consult and work collaboratively with caseworkers, carers and students (if appropriate) to identify and respond to additional learning and support needs. This includes collaborative planning between teachers, support staff and specialist staff within and outside education where needed.

What is your role with the student's education?

You can support the education of the child or young person in your care by:

- telling the school and your caseworker about any issues which may impact on the child or young person's ability to learn
- participating in learning and support planning.
- asking your caseworker or school for help to make sure the supports in the learning and support planning are implemented and actions are completed
- being involved in the school community and getting to know your child or young person's teachers and friends
- attending parent-teacher meetings which provide a great opportunity to talk about progress
- making sure learning and support planning documentation, school reports and any other relevant education records are provided to new carers or parents if a student moves placement or returns home.

You can also encourage the child to:

- participate in learning and support planning
- participate in activities which support their learning and connection to the school community
- complete their homework and talk about what they enjoy at school and what they are having trouble with
- understand that completing school and going to university or TAFE will give them their best possible chance of success in life

For more information about supporting the education of children and young people in your care go to the 'Education and Training' section of www.caring.childstory.nsw.gov.au