



REALISING CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL  
THROUGH EDUCATION

# EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS



SUPPORTING  
EVERY CHILD'S  
POTENTIAL

## OUR PROGRAMS

Strong literacy and language skills are critical to a child's future educational achievements. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are five times more likely to have lower literacy skills when starting school, perpetuating a cycle of low educational attainment.

In a post-pandemic environment, schools and early childhood centres may not have the resources to provide the kind of one-on-one learning support that many children experiencing disadvantage need in order to catch up to their peers.

Ardoch's early years support programs provide early childhood centres and schools with practical resources, engaging activities, and skilled volunteer educators to help children who may be struggling to catch up. Our programs have been designed to foster student engagement with the written word and support improved confidence and aptitude in literacy skills.

### STEM EXCURSIONS

Ardoch offers STEM based incursions to our early years partners, who bring to life the world around us with animals, stories and play-based activities.

### CONTACT

To find out more about our education programs or becoming a partner, email:  
[volunteers@ardoch.org.au](mailto:volunteers@ardoch.org.au) or phone 1300 ARDOCH.



## CURIOUS YOUNG MINDS



Developed in partnership with Deakin University using an evidence-based approach, this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program focuses on children aged 4-5 attending early education centres that have been identified as experiencing disadvantage.

Curious Young Minds focuses on three complementary aspects of STEM literacy — knowledge, skills and thinking — and links them to language development and literacy during these early years. Specially trained volunteers use Ardoch's purpose designed 'resource boxes' to engage and educate children through play-based activities. Packed with a collection of quality STEM materials such as robotics, mechanical objects and books, the kits help children build core STEM skills, language and confidence. The materials provided in the box are items that are easily replaced if required.

Crucially, the program provides a solid foundation for future STEM learning – a vital field for 21st century learners – and an especially valuable resource for children who may otherwise lack ready access to technology in the home.

## EARLY LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Our Early Language and Literacy (ELL) program supports children's school readiness and oral language and literacy development through targeted reading and writing activities.

Again developed with Deakin University and aimed at children aged 4-5, ELL draws on research about how best to support the language and literacy development of children in disadvantaged communities. Volunteers in the ELL program deliver a program of play-based activities that support learning and school readiness. The activities are delivered under the direction of the kindergarten teacher.



## EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

Our Education Volunteers are specially trained, credentialled and vaccinated to go into early years centres to provide support to teachers and educators. Our volunteers are given ongoing support and training to help them make the biggest possible impact in the classroom.

Education Volunteers commit two hours a week for at least six months to the partner site they are matched to. Our volunteers provide support at same time each week, and usually work one-on-one with a student or a group of students who need extra help with their literacy or STEM skills.

## WHY PARTNER WITH US

Ardoch's early years intervention programs are proven to increase the literacy and language skills of children in their crucial early and primary school years. Why? Because we help make literacy and learning fun!

We provide children and our partners with relevant and engaging materials, activities and skilled volunteers, building children's confidence and engagement with their education.

It's part of our broader approach to help children and young people create their own vision for what they would like to be in the future. We provide real world experiences and trained volunteers so that children can practice and improve their skills to reach their full potential.