



EARLY CHILDHOOD

AIM: The provision and access of early childhood education services for all geographically isolated children in the Northern Territory.

OBJECTIVES:

1. That the S'sOA provide appropriate programs to children from the age of 4 years who live in isolated areas.
2. That the importance of the role of parents in the success of Distance Education Early Childhood programs be considered when programs are being written or reviewed.
3. That in view of the fact that parents are the prime educators of their pre-school children, programs should include parent education. Key points that parents will be made aware of:
 - (a) The importance of Early Childhood Programs for the child's intellectual development, speech and language development, pre reading and pre writing skills, social development and fine motor and gross motor developments.
 - (b) The importance of early detection and correction of learning difficulties.
 - (c) The need for parents to develop teaching skills.
4. That appropriate learning resources, such as library books, video/audio tapes, educational toys should be available for all children during Early Childhood Programs.
5. That pre school children receive patrol visits.
6. That qualified Early Childhood teachers be employed full time at Schools of the Air.
7. That Pre-School Distance Education modules contain a series of prepared activities within Northern Territory Department of Education guidelines.
8. That a School of the Air radio will be available to these students.
9. That, regular opportunities be available through seminars and workshops for parents to meet with Early Childhood Educators.
10. That access to Intervention Programs be available on a needs basis.
11. That, maximum opportunities for social interaction be provided.
12. That, parents have the option of enrolling their children with either a Small Rural School or a School of the Air.