A short note from the E4Kids team

2012 marks the start of the third year of data collection for the E4Kids team. It also represents a move to a new childcare, kindergarten or school classroom for the majority of the E4Kids study children. We hope all children have had a great start to the year and we welcome all new schools, services, principals, teachers and carers to the study. The evidence is clear that a child’s early experiences play an important role in their personal and social development in both the short-term and throughout their adult life. Your contributions to the E4Kids study provide Australian families, communities and government with an increasing awareness in the importance of childcare centres, kindergarten services and schools in supporting the learning and development of our young children. We look forward to working with you in 2012.

Professor Collette Tayler, Professor Karen Thorpe and the E4Kids Team.
Activities4Kids

Become an explorer of the world

You will need
- Your eyes for looking
- Your thinking cap
- Objects you have collected from the garden or local park
- A bag to put your collected objects into to keep them safe
- Drawing paper and a pencil
- Colouring pencils or paint

Imagine you are an explorer. Take a walk in your garden or local park. What can you see on the ground? Leaves? A small rock? A flower? What objects appeal to you most?

Once you’ve decided which objects to collect, put them carefully into your collection bag. Take your bag inside and sit at your worktable. Start by examining each specimen very carefully. Look for any special markings or patterns that make each object special. Now take your pencil and paper, and carefully draw each object. You can trace around them or place the objects close to you and draw exactly what you see.

When you have finished drawing, add colour to your picture. Think about a sentence that explains why you chose the objects you did. For example, “I chose a leaf, small rock and flower because they had interesting shapes and patterns.” Write your sentence underneath your drawing. You can ask someone to help if you like.

We need to keep in touch with you throughout the year. If you are moving or any of your contact details are about to change, please let us know.

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Spotlight on E4Kids team

Who am I?
My name is Vanessa and I love learning. My love of learning has taken me on many adventures where I have been able to explore, entertain, care, research and be amazed. I am currently finishing a Masters in Psychology, have worked as a Team Leader for E4Kids and have just had a baby boy, Casper.

What I like about E4Kids
Firstly, I love gathering lots of pieces of information together to help understand how children learn best. Secondly, letting the whole world know what we find out so every child will benefit from the study. Thirdly, working towards giving children the best possible future.

My favourite childhood activity...
...involved some sort of exploration through the landscape. One such place was the hedge separating my neighbours house from ours. It was perfectly shaped so I could crawl in under its foliage and make a secret shelter. I would then tunnel from one end to the other examining the many bugs and coloured leaves living in there. Some things were collected so I could examine them later.