

# A note from the Community Health Nurse

2018

Hello and welcome to an exciting new school year! My name is Caroline Turich and I am the Community Health Nurse who visits your school.

Community Health Nurses work in schools to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. A major part of my work is focused on early intervention and the **School Entry Health Assessment (SEHA)** program.

All children in Western Australia are offered a health assessment during their first year of primary school. This usually occurs in kindergarten and is provided by the local Community Health Nurse. This is an excellent opportunity to look at the health and development of each child at the beginning of school life.

The School Entry Health Assessments start in Term 1 and will continue until Term 4.

The assessments are simple, standard tests which are non-invasive, quick and easy. The tests screen for problems which are best addressed, if picked up and treated early. The tests include:

- Vision and hearing checks
- 'Lift the lip' assessment
- Growth assessment including weight, height and Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Developmental evaluation according to parent responses on the form
- Teacher and nurse observations
- Any other health, development and wellbeing concerns raised by parents.

Your child's results will be sent home after their health check has been completed. Results are always treated confidentially.

Please note, the screening tests indicate if there may be a problem – they do not diagnose a condition. If the test results for your child suggest there may be a problem, the Community Health Nurse will contact you to talk about further assessment and possible referral.

School Entry Health Assessment forms are currently being distributed for parents to complete. **Please complete and sign the back page of the form before you return it. Please return the form to the class teacher as soon as possible.**

If you have a concern about your child's health or development or wish to discuss the School Entry Health Assessment, please contact me on the details provided below.

I look forward to working with you and your family. Thank You and Have a Great School Year!

**Caroline Turich** | Clinical Nurse- Community Health Nurse | School Health | CACH

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