



PRIMARY MATTERS

ISSUE #6 AUGUST 2015

Welcome to the August 2015 edition of Primary Matters. This newsletter provides more information about ACARA's projects that will assist primary schools across Australia.

Refining the Australian Curriculum

In May, primary teachers from schools across Australia returned to ACARA's offices to attend the second of two planned workshops.

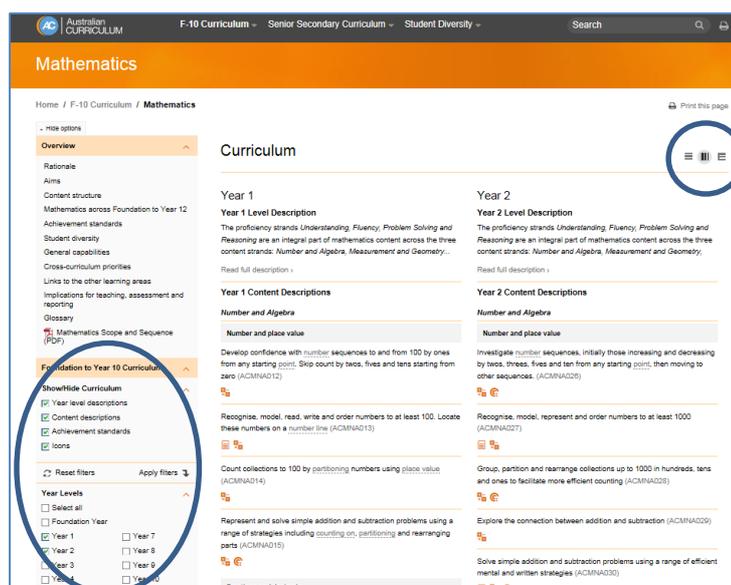


Primary teachers workshop – ACARA, May 2015

This second workshop was to provide feedback about the draft changes to learning areas in the Australian Curriculum – a part of the work underway to improve the Australian Curriculum by addressing the themes endorsed by the Education Council, including uncrowding and rebalancing the curriculum. The draft changes to learning areas will be considered by education ministers at a meeting later this year.

Using the Australian Curriculum website filter to plan for multi-age classes

Planning teaching and learning activities for multi-age classes in primary school can be made easier by using the filter and page view tools on the Australian Curriculum website. The filter tool is found on the left-hand navigation pane within a learning area. Teachers can select what they want to filter (year level descriptions, content descriptions, achievement standards) and for the year levels they are planning, by checking the boxes and then applying the filter. To view the two year levels side by side, select the column view on the top right of the page.



Illustrations of Personalised Learning

Two new primary (Year 2 and Year 5) illustrations of personalised learning are available on the Australian Curriculum website to assist teachers plan teaching and learning programs for gifted and talented students.

Gifted and talented students are entitled to rigorous, relevant and engaging learning opportunities drawn from the Australian Curriculum and aligned with their individual learning needs, strengths, interests and goals. ACARA acknowledges that there are numerous models of curriculum adjustment relating to gifted and talented students, although these are not referenced in detail in this advice. The purpose of this advice is to focus on how teachers use the flexible design of the [Australian Curriculum](#) to meet the individual learning needs of gifted and talented students and make necessary adjustments to meet their individual learning needs.

[\(Student diversity – gifted and talented students, Australian Curriculum \)](#)

The illustrations demonstrate how teachers use the age appropriate learning area content of the Australian Curriculum as an entry point for planning and then utilise the general capabilities to adjust classroom tasks to meet students' individual learning needs. The illustrations comprise a short film that captures the teacher speaking about how they adjust the curriculum for their students, the relevant Australian Curriculum references, staff discussion questions, the teachers' programming documents and opportunities to link to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.



Please pass our newsletter on to your primary colleagues. Contact details are below and we would welcome any feedback or questions about ACARA's work.

ACARA curriculum staff are happy to discuss our projects. Contact us directly by email:

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