

Early Childhood Education

I know that a number of parishes are looking to introduce Pre-Schools / Early Childhood services. While this can be a useful source of income for a parish, these services should also – and more importantly – help to connect young families with the parish.

My vision is for an Archdiocese where parishes minister to our people from cradle to grave – where a parish pre-school is just as normal as a parish primary school, and where both are focused on assisting parents and parishes in evangelising and catechising our young people, as well as giving them the best possible start educationally.

There are several commercial providers who are able to provide financially competitive offers to parishes. However, if your parish is looking to begin or renew a contract for a pre-school, I would ask you in the first instance to discuss your needs and plans with the new **Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services** operated by our own Catholic Schools system. In the model being developed by SCECS, early childhood education is a ministry of the parish, and part of the parish's ministry to families, and hence falls under the pastoral role of the parish priest. By joining SCECS better off parishes also help the Catholic system to cater for poorer parishes. For more information go to <https://scecs.nsw.edu.au/>