

# The impact of 2020 on primary school children and families



Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 was challenging for schools and families alike. Changes were made to the way learning, teaching and working occurred, with shifts to remote and/or home environments.

During the pandemic, Camp Australia continued to focus on our vision to *support families in achieving their dreams*, as we cared for over **65,000** children, across **2.6 million** sessions of care in over **600** services across Australia.

But in a year like no other, we were keen to understand what parents, principals and children thought of the year. In December 2020, Camp Australia sent 37,546 families and 569 partner schools our Child Impact Survey to find out how the Coronavirus crisis impacted children aged 5-12 across Australia and how we could best support and guide their growth in 2021. More than 1,130 families and 124 partner schools responded to our survey. This report summarises our findings.

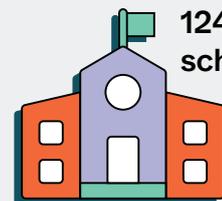
We hope the findings assist us, schools and parents to understand better how we can further support and guide children's growth in 2021.

## Survey Participants:

**1,138 parents\***



**124 partner\*  
schools**



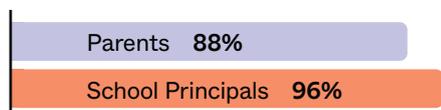
\*On 8th December 2020, Camp Australia sent 37,546 families and 569 partner schools a Child Impact Survey to gather insights into how we can best support children in 2021.



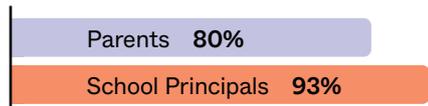
## The impact of 2020 on primary school children

According to parents and school principals, the top three things that impacted children during 2020 were:

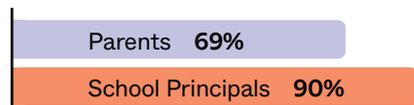
**Increased screen time** from remote learning and personal use:



**Feeling disconnected** with friendship groups and family due to remote learning and restrictions:



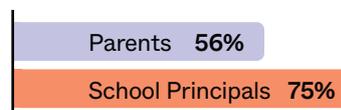
**Decreased physical wellbeing** and the loss of participation in sporting activities:



## Heading into 2021

Parents and school principals would like children to start the new school year with:

**Fun activities** that help build resilience, independence and confidence:



**Physical activities** focussed on wellbeing:



**Establishing friendships** and reconnecting with the school community:



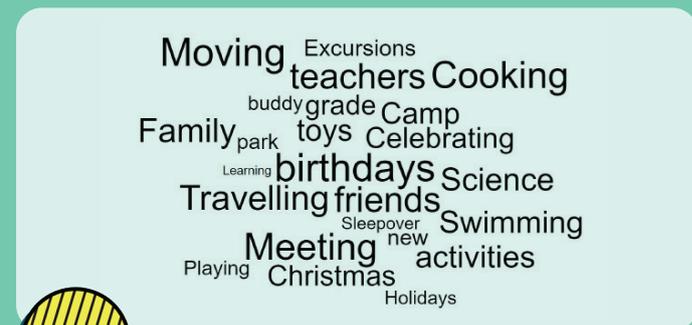
## Insights from the children

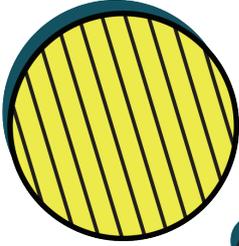
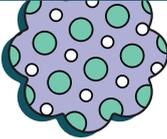
Over 1,200 children aged 5-12 from over 170 schools nationally answered the question, 'What's the one word you would use to describe this year?' Despite the challenges of 2020, the top 3 words used were:

- fun
- good
- happy

Children have shown tremendous resilience throughout 2020 and the research would indicate their outlook is positive when asked to think of the year ahead.

When asked what they were most excited about for 2021, the words the children used included:





## Guiding children's growth through the experiences they love in 2021

At Camp Australia, children are at the heart of everything we do.

We work alongside our partner schools and employ the best educators to deliver enriching experiences to children before school, after school and during the school holidays. Our tailored programs are designed to support their growth in confidence and resilience, all of which are linked to positive learning outcomes.

We know 2021 will look different to pre-COVID times, but with valuable insights into what children and their families need to feel supported, we will continue to provide a safe and inclusive environment and one which stimulates development and growth.

At *Your OSHC* by Camp Australia, our Outside School Hours Care program at the start of Term 1 2021, is about helping boost children's confidence by forging new friendships and strengthening existing ones. Launching in Autumn, our new holiday program, *Rocketeers* by Camp Australia, will deliver fun, extraordinary adventures with spectacular missions, so children enjoy the best school holidays.



Sport is already part of our programming in *Your OSHC* and *Rocketeers*, and after a year where social and sporting activities were disrupted, we are doing something big so children can have fun and get moving again. In Term 1 and continuing through the Autumn holidays, Camp Australia will introduce the first ever National Handball Championships where children will have the chance to get active and compete in the biggest handball competition ever.

For more information about our programs and the National Handball Championships, visit [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au).

