

Letter to my child's school

A template for parents asking their school to reconsider running a hatching project.

How to use this letter

Replace every part written inside [square brackets] with your own details (your name, your child's school, the date, and so on). Feel free to add your own words, shorten it, or remove anything that does not feel like you. When it is ready, you can either print it out and sign it by hand, or copy the text straight into an email to your principal. A Word version is also available on our Hatching Projects page if you would rather edit it directly.

[Your name]

[Your address]

[Your email]

[Date]

[Principal's name]

[School name]

[School address]

Re: Please reconsider running a hatching project at [school name]

Dear [Principal's name],

I am writing as a parent of a child at [school name]. I have heard that the school is planning to run a classroom hatching project, and I would like to ask, respectfully, that you reconsider. I know projects like this are run with the best of intentions, and I want to share a few reasons why they are not as harmless as they look.

- 1.** The fertilised eggs come from commercial hatcheries, which are supplied by parent farms where the mother and father birds are kept in intensive conditions and slaughtered when their productivity drops. The children also never meet the mother hen, who in nature begins softly clucking to her unhatched chicks days before they break through the shell, and who is a devoted and attentive mother from the moment they arrive. A hatching project replaces that whole relationship with a machine, which means the children are not really seeing the life cycle at all.
- 2.** A classroom cannot safely care for a newborn chick. Chicks need round-the-clock warmth, clean bedding, and urgent veterinary care when something goes wrong. Weekends, evenings and holidays leave unavoidable gaps.
- 3.** Hatching a chick inside a machine teaches children that animals are disposable. I believe we can offer them a far more powerful lesson by treating animals as individuals with lifelong needs.
- 4.** Roughly half of every hatch is male. Roosters cannot legally be kept in most suburban council areas. When the project ends they are commonly returned to the hatching company (where they are usually killed), pushed onto families who feel they cannot say no, or dumped on the side of the road or in the bush. And the children who have hatched and cared for those chicks are inevitably heartbroken when the time comes for their friends to be taken away. I do not want that for my child, and I do not believe the school wants it either.

5. Every rescue and sanctuary in NSW is already full, especially for roosters. The phone calls from panicked families after a project ends come to them, and they usually have to say no. Birds are then left without a home.

There are wonderful alternatives that teach the same science without creating lives nobody has a home for. Modern Teaching Aids sells a reusable Chicken Life Cycle Set of 21 Eggs that opens to show embryo development day by day. A seed-growing project teaches the life cycle beautifully too, with practical food-growing skills attached. Farm sanctuaries offer educational visits. There are many lovely hatching videos available online. I would be very happy to help coordinate any of these.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I love that our school cares about bringing wonder into the classroom, and I believe we can find a kinder way to do it.

With kind regards,

[Your name]

[Parent of (child's name), (class/year)]