

Animal Life Cycle Education  
Chicken Hatching Program

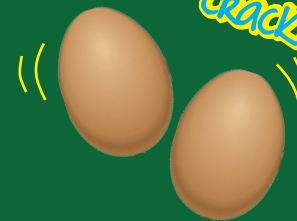
# HANDBOOK

Up close and personal with nature, children can see the miracle of a chicken hatch and emerge from an egg, then care for the chicks in a sustainable environment to nurture their growth into happy & healthy chickens.



"Are you  
ready to  
hatch?"

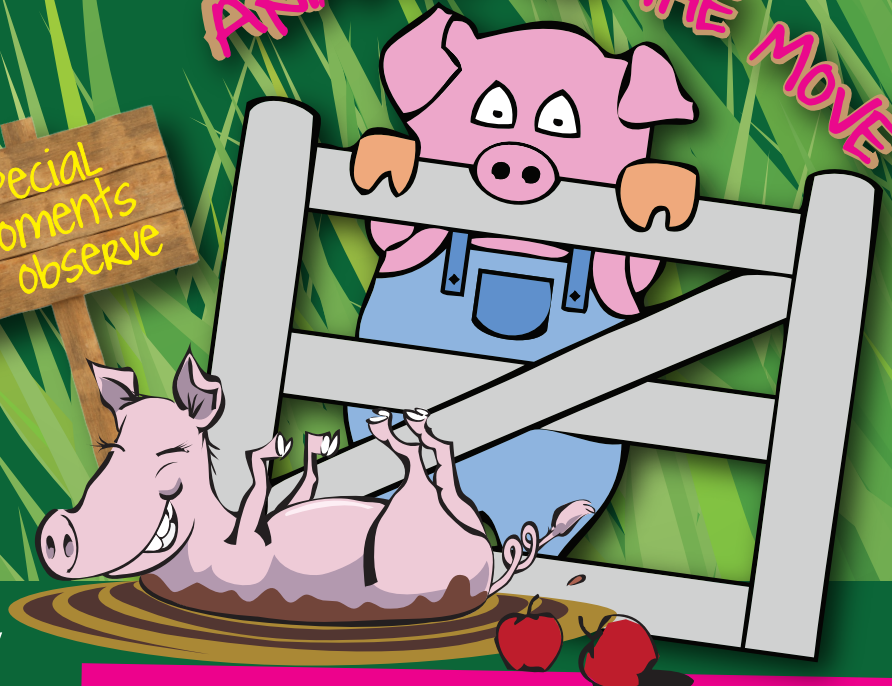
"Let's  
get  
cracking!"



We'd like to share some  
useful information on what  
to expect, how to care for your  
chicks and so much more...

PTO >>>

ANIMALS ON THE MOVE



Cardinia Shire Council  
**WINNER**  
Business of the Year

[www.animalsonthemove.com.au](http://www.animalsonthemove.com.au)



Hi There!

Thank you for inviting Animals on the Move's Chicken Hatching-  
Animal Life Cycle: Education Program into your Place.

Our information booklet is designed to give you a thorough understanding of:

- ✿ How to care for your chicks
- ✿ How to observe and monitor them
- ✿ What to expect along the way

We've included a few educational and interesting chicken facts as well as some fun activities to share with your group through the Animals on the Move experience.

We trust you will enjoy the animals as they grow and your children/students explore the opportunity to gain a hands-on understanding of an animals life cycle, with these little miracles.

Leonie Woodham (Farmer/owner & Animal Lover)  
**Animals On The Move Pty Ltd**



## INDEX

✿ Introduction.....	2
✿ Things to know before you begin.....	3
✿ What's included and why.....	4
✿ Care and management of our fluffy friends.....	5
✿ Observation and development.....	6
✿ Keeping Chooks as Pets .....	7
✿ Interesting Animal Facts.....	8
✿ Word Puzzle.....	9
✿ Fun Stuff.....	10
✿ FAQ's.....	12
✿ Evaluation and feedback form.....	13





our aim is to bring smiles  
to the faces of young &  
old, whilst helping  
children to develop a  
caring attitude toward  
all creatures

## A bit about our Animal Life Cycle Education Chicken Hatching Program...

Learning about Animals Life Cycles is a unique experience as most children are naturally interested and curious about animals. The Chicken Hatching Program provides a highly visual, hands-on, fun and educational experience that children (and adults) love.

The aim of this program is to give children first hand experience into how a chickens life begins.

The Chicken Hatching Experience introduces children to the delicate hatching process. Children also learn about the changing needs of the new born chicks as they grow and develop into fluffy and active chicks over a period of 1 or 2 weeks.

Children monitor a seemingly lifeless egg crack open and watch a fully-developed baby chick emerge. Incubation of eggs will show the effects of heat, air, and moisture control on hatchability.

Waiting to see if all of the chicks will hatch is an eye-opening way to see just how delicate the balance between survival and extinction can be.

When chicks have emerged from their egg, children can monitor the changes and growth of the chickens and learn the daily responsibilities involved in taking care of pets.

**Extra special moments include;** observing the chicks peck their way out of the egg and the dramatic transformation from wet and weak newborns, into fluffy and active chicks.

A perpetuate motive is to give children the idea that people can do things to help conserve animal life and that children themselves can carry out a plan of action to assist in the care of animals.



PHONE: 1300 760 354



# Things to know before you begin

## A few helpful hints to remember along the way

For the health and safety of both the chicks and children, as well as give you piece of mind... we've outlined some important factors for you to be aware of in order to get the best out of your Animal Life Cycle Education Chicken Hatching experience.

- ✿ **Incubator requires 24 hours of uninterrupted power.**
- ✿ **The temperature must be set at 100 degrees** at all times. A team member will help you locate the best spot away from drafty doors, heat vents, or sunny windows!
- ✿ **Correct Humidity** is an extremely important element of good egg incubation. The base of the incubator must always have water in the centre sections and the outer sections must be dry. Never put water on a fertile egg, it will die.
- ✿ **The lights must be on in the brooder box** to keep the chickens snug and warm.
- ✿ **Once started, it can take up to 24 hours for a chick to hatch**
- ✿ **Once Chicks hatch, they are vulnerable, wet and weak.** Chicks need to stay in the incubator till they regain their strength and become dry and fluffy.
- ✿ **Dry, happy chicks can be moved into brooder box** under the warmth of the lights approx 24 hours after hatching.
- ✿ **Chicks do not normally eat for the first day** as they still have all the nutrients from the yolk inside the egg.
- ✿ **Some eggs may not hatch.** Weak chicks can become exhausted trying to struggle free of the egg and die. It is OK to help any that appear spent by gently removing pieces of the shell. In nature only the strongest survive. All eggs should be hatched by Friday. If by Friday there are still eggs that have not hatched they should be disposed of before they begin to smell.
- ✿ **Keep brooder box clean and wash hands before and after handling your chicks.** Please clean the incubator base before pick up on Friday.
- ✿ **Handle with care.** Chickens are very fragile and care should be taken when they are being handled. Please show and guide the



My Pet Stop. For chicken needs, Animals On The Move offer a range of Chicken Coops, feed, bedding and accessories available for purchase. If you have any curious parents, please ask them to give us a buzz on: **PH 1300 760 354** or they can visit our website at: **[www.animalsonthemove.com.au](http://www.animalsonthemove.com.au)**



A female chicken is called a "HEN"

A male chicken is called a "Rooster"



A group of chickens are called a "FLOCK"



It takes a fertile egg 21 days for a chicken to hatch!

Chicks use their "egg-tooth" to break through the shell. It disappears a few days after hatching

A chick breaking open the eggshell is commonly called "pipping"



# What's included and why...

For over 10 years our tried and tested set-up provides the best possible environment for eggs to hatch and chicks to thrive.

## Fertile Eggs & New Born Chicks

We bring 6-8 fertile eggs in a specially designed clear dome incubator for easy observation of the chickens hatching. We also bring 2 week old chicks in the brooder box for children to care for while waiting for the others to hatch. Once the eggs have hatched, the older chicks will show the younger ones how to eat.

24 hour power to the incubator is needed to ensure temperature, humidity and ventilation is "just right" for your chicks to hatch and grow happy.

We provide every nuturing needed for the 1(2) week program (as per list below) and set up the incubator and brooder box in a safe location (free from drafts and excessive variations in temperature) with the lights, water and wood shavings/bedding.

Fertile eggs and sustainable equipment are delivered on a Monday and pickup 1(2) week/s on the Friday.

After set-up, a team member explains what to expect and advises you to contact us anytime if you have any hesitations.



### what we Deliver...

- ✓ 2 x One week old chickens - to go in brooder box
- ✓ 6-8 fertile eggs - to go in incubator
- ✓ Clear dome Incubator - for eggs
- ✓ Brooder box - for chickens
- ✓ Food bowl
- ✓ Water bowl
- ✓ Wood shavings - for brooder box
- ✓ Chicken feed

### FOR happy & healthy chicks...

- **Incubator should not be opened** until eggs have hatched.
- **Correct Humidity.** Keep water in incubator at all times. Warm water must be placed in the incubator to avoid excessive moisture loss which can result in delayed or reduced hatches. *Caution: Do not let the eggs come into direct contact with the water at any time.*
- **A Warm and Cosy Temperature.** The light bulbs are positioned at one end so chicks can move away if they are too warm or huddle under if they are cold.
- **Transfer fluffy chicks into the comforts of the brooder box** with fresh food and clean water. Chicks usually don't eat for 24 hours after hatching as they are filled with nutrients from the egg.
- **After hatch is complete, disconnect the incubator and clean.** Remove shells and dispose of unhatched eggs. With a warm soapy cloth, wipe the interior clean.

N.B: We're happy to help if you have any questions  
**1300 760 354** 



## Feeding the chicks What's On The Menu...

**Feeding times** The chicks Brooder Box food bowl should be filled once daily, and refilled if required.

**Special Dietary Requirements** both food and water should be available to the chickens at all times in the Brooder Box.

The feed must be dry at all times. Dispose of wet feed as it may grow a fungus harmful to the chicks.

**Nutrients from the yolk inside the egg.** Chicks don't usually have an appetite for 24 hours after they hatch.

**Chicken Nuggets should be removed daily!!!**  
(The chicks poo in the food bowl)

**Hydration** Water should be available at all times to keep chicks hydrated.

Chicks get a great start in the world with perfect nutrients from their egg.

## Menu

### Chicken Feed (Dry)

*Served daily in a clean feed bowl*

Animals On The Move's chicken feed mix contains healthy and nutritional ingredients, great for new born chicks.

## Beverages

### Fresh Water

*Served in a clean water bowl or sipper bottle*

The perfect chicken hydration fix with continuous refills for a never ending supply:)





# Handling, Hygiene & Accommodation Care & Management...

Chicks are social animals and love company. Young chicks need a clean, stable and well maintained habitat to thrive in.

**Do not move the incubator** once it has been set up and until the chicks have hatched.

**Handling the chicks with care** Only move the chicks to the brooder box when they are completely dry and fluffy.

**Lights in the brooder box** must be on at all times to keep the chickens warm. If they are too cold they will cheep loudly. Check both light globes are working. Replace if necessary. If chicks are too hot (open mouth panting) open the lid of the brooder box.

**Adult Supervision** A teacher, carer or adult should be present at all times when the chicks are to be handled.

**Little Chick Hygiene** Droppings should be cleaned DAILY.

**Children & Adults Hygiene** Wash hands after handling the chicks, cleaning the brooder and incubator or feeding the chicks.

## Keeping it a 5 star rating Chick Accommodation...

Provide a great service to your chicks and keep them happy and healthy! Consequently, it will teach children the responsibility that comes with caring for pets and the work that goes into it.

**Bedding & floor surface** woodshavings in brooder box should be changed completely once per week. The brooder box may need to be cleaned if it begins to smell or if the water is spilt, a bag of fresh bedding is provided.

**Clean daily** animal droppings, water and food bowl.

**Location, Location** Avoid placing near air conditioning, heating vents, open windows or in direct sunlight. The incubator and brooder box are to be kept inside.

**Safe & Secure** Brooder boxes are engineered to maintain the chick's body temperature with an additional source of heat. A controlled environment keeps the chicks from wandering too far from heat and nourishment.

## Provide a familiar & stable environment What to do on weekends...

**2 week Chicken Hatching Experience duration.** Over the weekend, add an extra food bowl & two small water bowls. Please be aware chicks can drown if the water is too deep or large. **If an adult is available to go and check them, that would be the best option.**

Chicks should remain at the place to where they were delivered and not taken home over the weekends. Contact with other pets can cause stress, as can letting the chicks run around your backyard (unfamiliar territory).





## THE HATCHING OF THE CHICKENS!

On the 21st day, the chick inside the egg begins to have muscle spasms that cause it to kick with its legs, which consequently causes its beak to peck at the shell. Every muscle spasm causes the chick to turn in a circular motion in the egg so it can slowly crack tiny holes around the shell with its egg tooth.

The egg tooth is a hard point on the end of the chick's beak that disappears a few days after it has hatched.

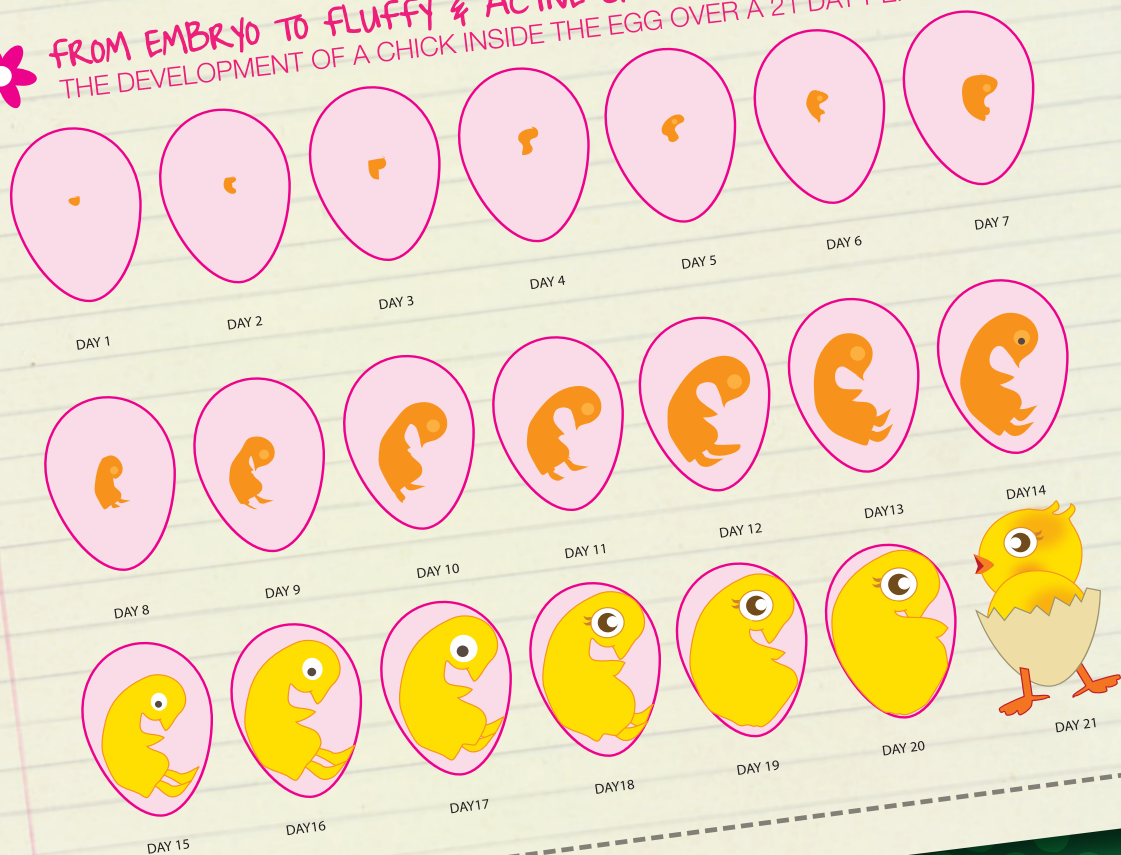
It can take up to 24 hours for the chick to break free from the egg.

The first efforts to free itself are crucial to the chicken's life cycle and it will die if you interfere in this miraculous process.

When the chick finally breaks free from the egg it is wet and very weak after using all its energy to break the shell. The chick needs to stay in the incubator till it regains its strength, is dry and fluffy and begins to walk.

The dry fluffy chicks can then be moved from the incubator into the brooder box under the warmth of the lights. Chicks do not normally eat for the first day, as they still have all the nutrients from the yolk inside the egg.

### FROM EMBRYO TO FLUFFY & ACTIVE CHICKS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHICK INSIDE THE EGG OVER A 21 DAY PERIOD





# How does a chicken breathe inside its eggshell?

Every animal needs oxygen to survive, therefore the chick must get air somehow!

Objective: Determine if the pores in a chicken egg shell allow a substance to move in and out of an egg through the eggshell pores.

Complete this science project and discover the mystery!

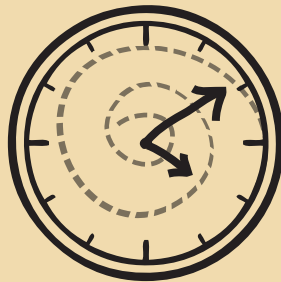
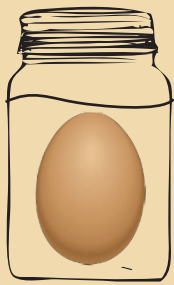
## All you will need is:

- 1 raw egg
- 1 jar with a lid
- Vinegar



## What to do:

- Put the egg inside the jar
- Cover the egg with vinegar
- Watch what happens over the next 72 hours (OR 3 days)!



Watch the clock & see the changes in the next 72 hrs! (3 days)

## What has happened?

At the beginning, little bubbles started to form on the eggshell, then more and more bubbles formed.

After a 72 hour duration, the shell of the egg will have disappeared! A thin transparent membrane which contains the yolk is all that remains. The size of the egg will have increased also!

## Why did this happen?

The bubbles seen on the egg were carbon dioxide gas. The carbon dioxide gas was produced by a chemical reaction between the eggshell and the vinegar. This chemical reaction dissolved the eggshell.

The rest of the egg can not be dissolved by the vinegar. The thin membrane protecting the egg becomes stronger and more rubbery.

The egg has grown larger because the membrane protecting the egg has allowed the water in the vinegar to pass through. Unlike water, oxygen or carbon dioxide gas, the vinegar is unable to pass through the eggshell. Vinegar is made up of larger molecules which are too big to fit through the tiny holes in the membrane.

*The importance of oxygen in an egg*

The air sack in the egg is filled with oxygen. As the chick develops, it needs the oxygen replenished for it to continue to grow. It needs the carbon dioxide it's making to be able to escape from the air cell too!

*A chicken egg shell has more than 7,000 pores!*



*Pores are the way carbon dioxide escapes & fresh air gets into the egg.*



# A little word-finding fun Find the chicken words...



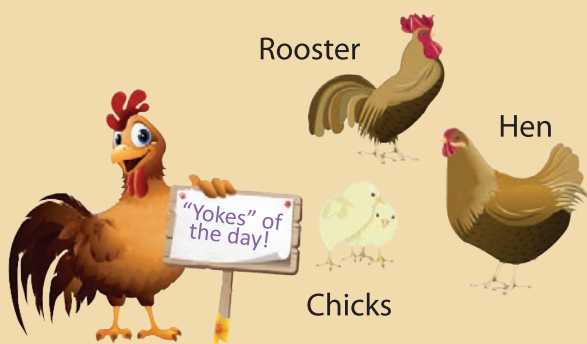
R	O	O	S	T	E	R	Q	Z	F	E	E	D	B
B	O	A	R	M	O	L	S	W	A	T	E	R	R
H	P	B	B	H	W	U	R	L	E	O	G	T	O
E	G	G	T	O	O	T	H	I	S	W	G	V	O
N	K	I	T	T	H	N	B	T	H	X	S	P	D
F	J	I	N	C	U	B	A	T	O	R	H	O	E
E	I	P	T	H	F	L	O	C	K	U	E	K	R
E	I	A	D	L	I	N	G	R	T	D	L	U	B
D	H	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	N	Z	L	Y	O
O	X	N	I	B	C	H	I	C	K	S	H	G	X

HEN  
ROOSTER  
FLOCK

EGG SHELL  
WATER  
INCUBATOR

BROODER BOX  
EGG TOOTH  
HATCH

CHICKS  
FEED  
CHICKEN



Rooster

Hen

Chicks

## MORE INTERESTING CHICKEN FACTS...

- Chickens exist in many colors, sizes and shapes
- A female chicken is called a HEN
- A male chicken is called a ROOSTER
- A group of chickens is called a FLOCK
- There are more chickens in the word than people
- There are more than 350 combinations of physical features
- Chickens give us meat and eggs
- The chick uses an egg tooth to break out of the egg's shell.
- The egg tooth quickly falls off.
- The chick chips a circle around the egg to cut the egg in two pieces.
- Generally it takes 21 days for a chick to hatch from an egg and 28 days for a duck
- Chickens like to eat insects, worms, seeds, grains and grass
- The life span of a chicken is approx. 8 years
- Young males are cockerels, and become roosters at 1 year of age.
- Young females are pullets. At 1 year of age they're called hens.
- A chicken does not need a rooster to be able to lay eggs
- There are more Chickens in the world than humans
- Some breeds of chickens can lay colored eggs
- The average hen lays 265 table eggs each year

Why did the turkey cross the road ?  
To prove he wasn't a chicken

Why did the chicken cross the playground ?  
To get to the other slide

Why did the chicken cross the road, roll in the mud and cross the road again ?  
Because he was a dirty double-crosser

Why did the dinosaur cross the road?  
Cause chickens weren't invented

Why didn't the chicken skeleton cross the road ?  
Because he didn't have enough guts

Why did the computer cross the road?  
Because the chicken programmed it to!





## START WITH YOUR VERY OWN CHICKS!

**Starting your chicken husbandry with chicks** you'll have more success with them being socialized to you. Depending on the amount of hands-on care, they will become like any other family pet.

**They'll know who you are** and come to greet you at the end of a busy day.

**Chicks are available from a number of sources.** Do a little research if breed and size is important to you. If you have hens already, you can purchase fertilized eggs and attempt a swap between unfertilized eggs you've intentionally left for your hens to brood. When it works, Mama Hen will do the brooding for you, but timing is critical.

**Chicks are easiest to obtain in the early spring.** This allows several months for them to get big enough to tolerate outdoor temperatures. Get females, not males. Sexing chicks isn't 100% accurate and can only be done by a trained professional, so don't be surprised if you end up with a cockerel instead of a pullet. If so, find a home for the young fellow, or have him butchered for dinner.

**Baby chicks need to be kept clean and warm** with constant access to chick feed and fresh water. In the olden days, housewives kept a brooder near the woodstove. Since you probably don't have a woodstove going all day, you'll need a brooder to contain them.

**Keep chicks in the house** in a large plastic bin lined with straw or wood shavings, a water container, a food tray and a lamp for warmth. The bin needs to be cleaned frequently by changing the straw (which provide traction for little bird feet) and replacing the water and food containers with clean ones. Clean, warm chicks thrive; dirty, cold chicks die.

**Some chicks do die, especially if you are new to this.** You can get books or look up chickens on the internet to get all the info on illness and diet requirements, but be prepared for a few fatalities. If you can get them past the first week or so, chances are good you'll have sturdy survivors.

**A quick, simplified overview of what it takes to have a couple of hens**  
There is more to it of course, which experience and more comprehensive sources will provide.

**Hens lay eggs from about six or seven months of age** until they are about four or five years old, but they can live for several years longer. Many people keep them as pets long past the point of egg laying, in effect creating their own poultry retirement village. Others, arguably less sentimental, have no problem with having old hens butchered and turned into soup.

**Hens are wonderful, friendly creatures with unique personalities** that offer us eggs, insect control and rich manure. Regardless of whether you decide to keep them as pets or as working farm animals, for your daily commitment, they will provide a tremendous amount of enjoyment and satisfaction. They'll also open a new window into the world of nature and your part in it, which makes for wonderful family education, too.



After the program  
What happens to  
the chicks?



chicks can go  
home with  
suitable families

"welcome to  
the family!"

OR  
They come  
back to the farm  
to grow strong  
& healthy.

"WELCOME to our main farm in GEMBROOK!!!"

They can join us to visit kids with our mobile farmyard!

OR GO & Live at  
an Animals on  
the Move  
franchisee farm

OR be on the move & Live at another farm

AOTM franchisee farm

OR chickens can  
be purchased at ANY  
age from us  
including franchisees

& VISIT KIDNERS, SCHOOLS & BIRTHDAY PARTIES  
with the Animals on the Move family

fresh eggs in your  
own backyard!!!

When the children are not around, strategically place chicks around the room and take some snapshots... maybe... a chick walking on a chair or with some crayons and paper in front of them etc. Develop the photos, show the children and tell your students the chicks had great adventures after school! Spark their imagination and logic thoughts on a chicks capabilities and have students write stories to match the photos. You could even make a class book! (If you do, we'd love to share it on our website!)

Classroom  
fun



## FAQ's (feel free to give us a call if you have any more questions)

### **Q: How long does it take for a chicken to hatch?**

A: It can take a chicken up to 24 hours to completely peck their way through the egg. It's a long and hard task for the chicks and they emerge extremely tired.

### **Q: What does a new born chick look like?**

A: The chick will crawl out slowly and usually lie on its side completely wet. It will take a while for the chick to dry out. Keep chicks in the incubator till dry and fluffy.

### **Q: What to do we do when chickens have hatched?**

A: Do not be in a hurry to take chicks out of the incubator. Gallinaceous birds, such as chickens, quail, and pheasants survive up to 3 days without feed or water.

They will instinctively be interested in drops of water, each other's toes, and other objects of possible experimentation. Do not assume from these evidences of interest that the chicks are hungry. It is simply nature's way of experimentation, exploration, and learning of the young. In general chicks are taken from the incubator after 24 hours. No harm is done if they are not taken out for 48 hours after they hatch.

### **Q: The Chicks are not eating the feed?**

A: The yolk of the egg is drawn through the navel into the stomach of the chick just before it hatches. This, provides nourishment for the transitional period from the time the bird hatches, fluffs out, gains strength and becomes active enough to walk about and seek food. Chicks continue to grow and develop in the incubator, even before they eat food. They may not gain weight but they do gain in stature, activity and use of their faculties.

### **Q: How much do we feed the chicks?**

A: Feed and water must be before the chicks at all times from the time they are out of the incubator and in the brooder box. Do not give a measured daily ration. Rather, have sufficient feed and clean water to last from one feeding time to the next. Do not let feed or water run out!

### **Q: Some eggs have not hatched?**

A: In nature, only the strong survive and some eggs may not hatch. Weak chicks can become exhausted trying to struggle free of the egg and die. If eggs have not hatched by Friday please remove and dispose of carefully.

### **Q: When do we clean the incubator?**

A: Clean the incubator after the hatch, so it will be ready for the next time. Sanitation is an important part of incubating.

### **Q: How do we clean the incubator?**

A: Remove the eggshells and other remains. Clean the inside of the incubator thoroughly with soap and water, spick and span, ready for pick up.

### **Q: When can the children hold the chicks.**

A: When teachers/adults have moved the dry, fluffy chicks from the incubator into the brooder box and the chickens are walking around confidently.

### **Q: Can we feed the chicks veggie scraps & fruit.**

A: No. New born chicks are delicate and the feed supplied fits their dietary and nutritional needs.

### **Q: Can we buy the Chicks when the program is over?**

A: Yes. Yes as long as you have a brooder box at home (easy to make see previous page). If they are still a little young, we will take them back to the farm to grow strong and healthy and you may purchase them from there. We also have a range of chicken coops and packages available for purchase. Please look for our recommendations to purchase on the website. If you order a coop before the pickup date of the chicks, it can be delivered to your kinder/school on that day.

### **Q: Where do chicks go after the program?**

A: Chicks can go home with suitable families after the program. The chicks that are not sold come back to the farm or move to our franchisee farms. They go out and visit kids with the mobile farmyard to help spread the message of animal welfare and bring smiles to many. The chickens can be purchased at ANY age from of us and our franchisees. Fresh eggs in your backyard are a yummy brekkie treat!

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION DURING THE PERIOD OF THE PROGRAM, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL A TEAM MEMBER AT 'ANIMALS ON THE MOVE' ON THE FOLLOWING:

**PHONE: 1300 760 354**  
**For after hours call (03) 5 9681 644**

