

Flying Start for kids

Teacher-led Program
What Partners Need to Know



Government of
South Australia

19 June 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

From the heart:

We acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples as the First peoples of South Australia and as custodians of the lands, waters, skies and communities where we live, learn and raise children.

We recognise Aboriginal peoples as having the longest living culture, raising children safe and strong in their Identity, Community, Culture, and connection to Country.

We pay our deep respects to Elders past and present, and their role as the first knowledge sharers for children. We follow in their footsteps.

Aboriginal peoples, working with and for children, are central in shaping our work. Their wisdom, advice, and guidance enriches our practices, creating a more inclusive and culturally safe environment for children and families.

We respect Aboriginal peoples' ways of being, doing and wise practices guiding our continual learning.

Together we walk and build stronger, more supportive communities for all children.



What you'll gain from today



By the end of this session, you will:

- Understand the Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) led requirements
- Understand requirements for additional time 'off the floor'
- Understand what records to keep
- Understand when to communicate with families and OECD.

Teacher-Led Program



To deliver the funded preschool program, Partner services must ensure there is:

- A qualified ECT present and leading the funded preschool program for all funded hours
- Or educator with a Special Authority for an Unregistered Person to Teach (ECT SAT) granted by the TRB.

Where an ECT SAT is leading the program:

- Another registered ECT must be available to coach and support programming and practice.

ECT Qualifications



A qualified ECT is someone who:

- Is registered with the **Teachers Registration Board of South Australia (TRB)** and holds an approved early childhood teaching degree that meets National Quality Framework qualification requirements; or
- Are completing, or have completed, a qualification approved by ACEQA and holds a Special Authority to Teach (ECT SAT) from the TRB.

Unsure if a qualification is recognised?

- Check the [ACEQA NQF Approved Qualifications List](#) to confirm whether a qualification is approved for early childhood teaching.

Additional Time 'Off the Floor'



Partner Services must provide ECTs with:

Non-Contact Time

- An additional 2 hours per week above current award requirements

Examples

- *If your ECT is receiving 2 hours per week of programming time (as per the award), they now need to receive a total of 4 hours per week to meet requirements.*
- *Where programming responsibilities are shared between the Team Leader and the ECT, with 1 hour previously being allocated to each, the ECT should now receive a total of 3 hours to meet the requirements.*

Professional Development

- An additional **2 days of paid PD per year**, above current award requirements

Scenario



The service has **one ECT delivering the program** that works full time (5 days per week, 7.5 hours per day). Wednesdays are the ECT's non-contact time; therefore, the service does not offer a funded preschool program on this day.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Funded preschool program	Funded preschool program	No funded preschool offering	Funded preschool program	Funded preschool program

Important – children enrolled at the service on Wednesdays **are not receiving** a funded preschool program

Hours of Delivery Comparison



Requirement	3-year-old Preschool	4-year-old Preschool
Weekly hours offered	6-15 hours	15 hours
Maximum daily hours	8 hours	8 hours
Maximum funded annual hours	600 hours	600 hours
Funding	Pro-rata	Pro-rata
Roll-out flexibility	Yes	No*

* the eligibility requirements for 4-year-old preschool remain unchanged from existing provision. The 15-hours of funded preschool can be accessed across more than one service.

Record Keeping and Evidence



Services must maintain evidence of:

- ECT non-contact time
- Professional development days
- Relevant staffing records

Evidence must be:

- Documented
- Retained by the service
- Available when requested



Notification Requirements

Partner Providers/Services must notify the OECD within 10 business days if:

- A preschool teacher will be absent for more than 60 days in a 12-month period or
- A preschool teacher resigns or stops delivering the preschool program and the service may no longer meet eligibility requirements.

Why notify early?

Local teams can work with services to:

- Explore workforce solutions
- Prevent funding impacts
- Consider available support programs

Communicating changes



Families	OECD/Local Teams
Communicate:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to preschool delivery • Temporary staffing arrangements • Periods where the program is not delivered by an ECT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended leave • Resignations • Staffing risks • Funding eligibility concerns

Scenario:

An ECT resigns unexpectedly. Who needs to know and when?



What's next?

Preparing for data submissions to support funding - 10 July 2026 *(Mid-year partners only)*

- This webinar will guide mid-year partners through the data submission process, including what information is required and how submissions support funding.

Mid-year data submission due - 14 August 2026

- Data submissions are due for the reference period covering Weeks 2 and 3 of Term 3 (27 July – 7 August 2026).

Workforce Spotlight: Initiatives, Opportunities & Supports - 4 September 2026

- This webinar will explore the support available to services to recruit an Early Childhood Teacher or upskill educators already employed at your service.

For more information

For more information, please email the Funding and Monitoring team at: OECD.PreschoolFunding@sa.gov.au or reach out to your Local Team representative.

Connect with us and stay updated

- Visit the Flying Start Partner Page for key information, and resources to support you in delivering Flying Start Preschool.

- Password: FlyingStart!



- Stay up to date with our fortnightly Flying Start partners e-bulletin, delivered straight to your inbox.

- Direct families to the OECD website for general information www.earlychildhood.sa.gov.au

- Encourage families to download the Early Years app



- Connect with us on social media:

Instagram: [@earlychildhoodsa](https://www.instagram.com/earlychildhoodsa)

Facebook: [@earlychildhoodsa](https://www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodsa)

LinkedIn: [Office for Early Childhood Development](https://www.linkedin.com/company/office-for-early-childhood-development)



Questions

