

Flying Start for kids

Preschool Boost



Government of
South Australia



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.





By the end of today's session

You'll gain an understanding of:

- The context of Preschool Boost for supporting you as a partner service
- The Preschool Boost program and menu
- Planning requirements
- Supports available to you.



Partner Service Context

Based on the research and sector expertise, we know that a service needs to prioritise 3 things to make the biggest possible difference to children's lives.

Services need to be:

1. **Warm and welcoming**
2. **Committed to Quality**
3. **Acting early, with others**

Flying Start provides targeted programs and funding to help services to strengthen practice across these three priorities, including Preschool Boost.

Flying Start Policy and Funding Guide and Flying Start Partnership Plan are resources to help you apply for and understand opportunities and obligations.





What is Preschool Boost?

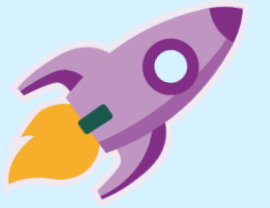
Preschool Boost is a universal funding program providing extra support for Flying Start partner services to boost the development of 3- and 4-year-old children.

Key elements of Preschool Boost include:

- Preschool Boost menu
- Core training in Aboriginal Cultural Safety and Trauma-Informed Practice.



Preschool Boost Menu



- The Preschool Boost Menu is an online directory for partner services to purchase pre-approved, high-quality, evidence-informed supports, suitable for 3- and 4-year-old children, their families and communities.
- It is structured around the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) domains.
- The menu enables partner services to search by keywords or filter available supports by AEDC domain, delivery region or mode, support category, program type and cost.
- Available supports include allied health services such as occupational therapy and speech pathology, delivered to children in a group setting, as well as educator and leadership training and, family programs.
- All supports listed have been thoroughly quality assured by an expert panel who have backgrounds in early childhood education, allied health, and Culturally responsive practice. Services are encouraged to contact their preferred suppliers via the menu to discuss available options, pricing, and suitability.



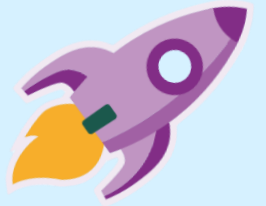
Preschool Boost Planning



- Services are required to plan for how they will use their Preschool Boost funding.
- The planning process involves:
 - exploring AEDC and other local data and QIP priorities to identify key focus areas
 - choosing supports from the menu that align to these focus areas
- Partner services must submit their plans for OECD approval before 1 November.
- Once plans are approved, services can book their preferred supports directly using the supplier contact information provided on the Preschool Boost menu.



Preschool Boost funding



- All Flying Start partner services will receive access to Preschool Boost funding, recognising developmental vulnerability exists in every area of South Australia.
- Funding amounts are distributed annually and will vary for each service based on enrolments, their socio-economic index and remoteness areas, as determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (SEIFA 'Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas' and ARIA 'Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia').
- Funding rates will be published annually and can be found in the Policy and Funding Guide.
- All Flying Start partner services will be advised of their Preschool Boost allocation in July 2026, via a letter. Funding is fixed for the calendar year and doesn't vary based on changes in enrolment during the year.





Preschool Boost spending parameters

Category	Definition/purpose	Allocation
Menu programs/supports	Programs and services listed on the Preschool Boost menu.	At least 50%
Off menu programs/supports	Programs or services that are not listed on the Preschool Boost menu	Up to 20%
Staff backfill	Covers the cost of temporary relief ECTs/staff to cover service staff attending programs or training	Up to 25%
Administration support	Covers costs related to Preschool Boost planning, booking, and administering programs or supports	Up to 5%

- Partner services may pool their funding with other services, provided the arrangement is clearly outlined in their plan.
- Core training is centrally funded and does not affect a service's individual Preschool Boost allocation.
- For full details on spending parameters, refer to the Policy and Funding Guide.



Off-menu spending

Partner services have flexibility to purchase off-menu under the allowable spending parameters.

Off-menu purchases may be approved when:

- a menu supplier is unavailable within the required timeframe, or at capacity
- the service's Preschool Boost allocation cannot accommodate the menu item, and a cost-effective alternative is found
- the support is not accessible in the region
- the support is only available online, but a face-to-face local is preferred.

Off-menu purchases may also be used to:

- 'top up' access to existing part-time allied health professionals at the service
- support local innovation or site-based research projects contributing to the evidence base for inclusion on the Preschool Boost menu
- address exceptional cases with written OECD approval.



Core training

- All Flying Start partner services have access to foundational Aboriginal Cultural Safety and Trauma-informed Practice training.
- Foundational training is mandatory for educators in funded preschool rooms and staff engaging directly with families and strongly recommended for all staff.
- The training is centrally funded, freely available, and services can access a funding contribution towards backfill for mandated staff to undertake the training.



Aboriginal Cultural Safety training:

- Foundation Aboriginal Cultural Safety training focuses on building knowledge aligned with the 'Knowing' level of the Knowing, Being, Doing Cultural Safety framework.
- This training is available in person through the Preschool Boost menu and an online version available via Plink in 2027.

Trauma-informed Practice training:

- Foundational Trauma-informed Practice training will build a shared understanding and practical strategies to support the increasingly complex needs of children and families.
- A 2-part online Foundational Trauma-informed Practice training is available via the Plink online learning platform.



Trauma-informed Practice coaching support

- Flying Start partner services with Preschool Plus enrolments have access to optional, additional coaching and implementation supports
- Coaching is delivered by Connect.Ed, a South Australian based multi-disciplinary provider who delivers professional development on early childhood development and trauma-informed practice
- Connect.Ed will work with individual services to co-design a tailored package of up to five sessions to best support the service to:
 - Build educator confidence
 - Apply trauma-informed strategies in everyday practice and
 - Support whole-service change
- Coaching sessions may be delivered in person, online or through a hybrid model
- Additional backfill funding is provided for the coaching program
- Services must ensure relevant staff have completed the 2-part online foundational Trauma-informed Practice modules before coaching support can commence.





What support is available for services?

- The OECD Local Teams are available to support services.
- Support may include:
 - helping services to interpret AEDC data and identify children's developmental needs
 - shortlisting and selecting appropriate programs/supports from the Preschool Boost Menu
 - shaping high-quality, outcomes-focused plans
 - reviewing, providing feedback, and approving plans
 - ongoing support, including a mid-year progress check-in
 - assistance when services are having difficulty sourcing a supplier.



What's next?

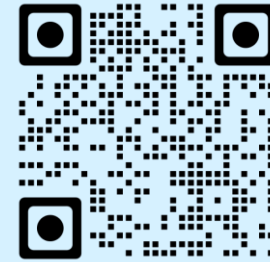


- Attend the next Flying Start Partners webinar, Preparing Data Submissions to Support Funding on the 10 July (mid-year partners only).
- Visit the Flying Start Partners Page for key information, and resources to support you in delivering Flying Start Preschool.
- Stay up to date with our fortnightly Flying Start partners e-bulletin, delivered straight to your inbox on the 15 July.

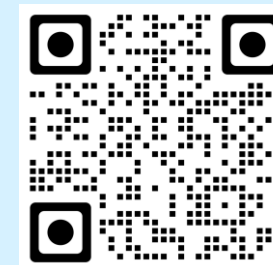
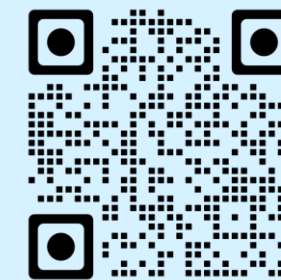


Stay updated and connect with us

- Visit the Flying Start Partner Page
 - Password: FlyingStart!



- Stay up to date with the Flying Start partners e-bulletin
- Direct families to the OECD website for general information
- Encourage families to download the Early Years app
- Connect with us on social media:



Instagram: [@earlychildhoodsa](#)

Facebook: [@earlychildhoodsa](#)

LinkedIn: [Office for Early Childhood Development](#)

Questions

