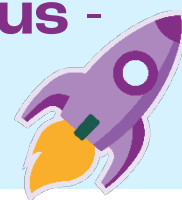


Helping families understand Preschool Plus - FAQs for partner services



These frequently asked questions aim to help partner services to talk with families about the benefits of participating in Preschool Plus and the additional supports available to help children and families thrive.

What is Preschool Plus?

Preschool for 3-year-olds is rolling out across South Australia. Preschool Plus is a play-based early learning program that offers children additional hours of preschool at ages 3 and 4.

Through Preschool Plus, children can access up to 30 hours of teacher-led, early learning each week in the two years before school. This is 15 hours more than standard preschool.

Thirty hours of quality preschool each week helps your child grow, learn and develop in important ways. It supports their thinking, language and social skills, giving them stronger foundation for the future. It's also a great opportunity for children to build confidence, make friends, feel safe and supported, and be better prepared to thrive in all areas of life.

Why more hours?

Preschool is where children learn as they play. Evidence shows that two years of early childhood education are better than one for all children and more preschool hours can help your child:

- Learn through fun, play-based activities
- Develop their language, social and thinking skills
- Grow their emotional wellbeing and resilience
- Strengthen physical skills through active play
- Build new friendships and confidence.

What extra support can families access?

Depending on family needs, examples of support through Preschool Plus could be:

- Practical support



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- Help with transport to and from preschool
- Support with essential preschool items such as clothing, shoes or backpacks
- Meals, snacks or other supports that help children attend preschool regularly
- Support with other practical barriers that may make preschool difficult to access.

How to explain this to families

You might say:

"We know getting to preschool every day isn't always easy. As part of Preschool Plus, we'll work with you to understand what supports might help your child attend regularly. This could include help with things like transport, essential preschool items or other practical support, depending on your family's circumstances."

Is there support with fees?

Preschool Plus fee relief helps reduce out-of-pocket costs for eligible families enrolled in the Preschool Plus program. Families may be eligible for fee relief if:

- they are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy (CCS)
- their CCS is 80% or above family income is below the current Preschool Plus fee relief threshold
- out-of-pocket costs are not already covered by the Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) or other funding
- the child maintains eligibility for Preschool Plus.

NOTE: Staff should refer to current Preschool Plus fee relief guidance and the fee relief calculator when discussing eligibility requirements.

How to explain this to families

You might say:

"Fees can vary depending on the service and your family's circumstances. Some families may be eligible for fee relief through Preschool Plus, which helps reduce the amount you pay. This is applied directly to your fees by the service."

What happens next

Staff can offer a simple next step to support families:



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- Offer to talk through their individual circumstances and explain how fees may work for them
- Help families understand what information they may need (for example, CCS details if applicable)
- Connect them with the right person at the service to discuss fees and supports in more detail.

You might say:

"If it's helpful, we can sit down together and talk through your situation and what your costs might look like. We can also help you understand what support you may be eligible for."

Why has my child been offered this place?

The Preschool Plus program is available for children most likely to benefit from additional preschool hours and embedded family support, referred by key government partners with a role in supporting families. In some locations, early childhood teachers will be supported to refer children into Preschool Plus places in their service

You might say:

"Preschool Plus is designed for children who are likely to benefit from additional preschool participation. Based on what we know about your child and family, we think Preschool Plus could provide extra opportunities to support your child's learning, development and participation. We'd love to talk through what the program involves and whether it's the right fit for your family."

What if 30 hours feels too much for my child?

Children participating in Preschool Plus can access up to 1,200 hours of preschool each year.

To be eligible for Preschool Plus, children need to be enrolled in enough preschool hours to receive at least 1,000 hours per year. For many families, this may be achieved through a 3-day attendance pattern. While services will encourage families to access as many preschool hours as possible, including the full 1,200 hours where appropriate, we understand some children and families may need time to consider this or increase their enrolment.

Partner services can work with families to identify barriers and support participation over time.

The goal is to help children benefit from as much quality preschool as possible while supporting families along the way.

Do I have to enrol my child in preschool?

No, preschool is not compulsory.



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However, quality early learning can support children's development, confidence, social skills and readiness for school. Partner services can also provide additional support for children and families to help make participation easier.

What if it's too hard right now?

We understand families can face challenges that make preschool difficult to access. Please talk to us about the barriers you are experiencing.

Depending on your family's circumstances, we may be able to provide practical support or connect you with other services that can help.



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