

Flying Start for kids

Flying Start Partnership Plan

7 August 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.



In today's session



You'll gain an understanding of:

- the purpose of the Flying Start Partnership Plan
- how to complete your Partnership Plan
- where to find guidance and support
- what's next - key dates
- how to stay updated and connected.



Purpose of the Partnership Plan



The Partnership Plan has been built around the three service priorities that have the greatest impact on children's learning, development and wellbeing:

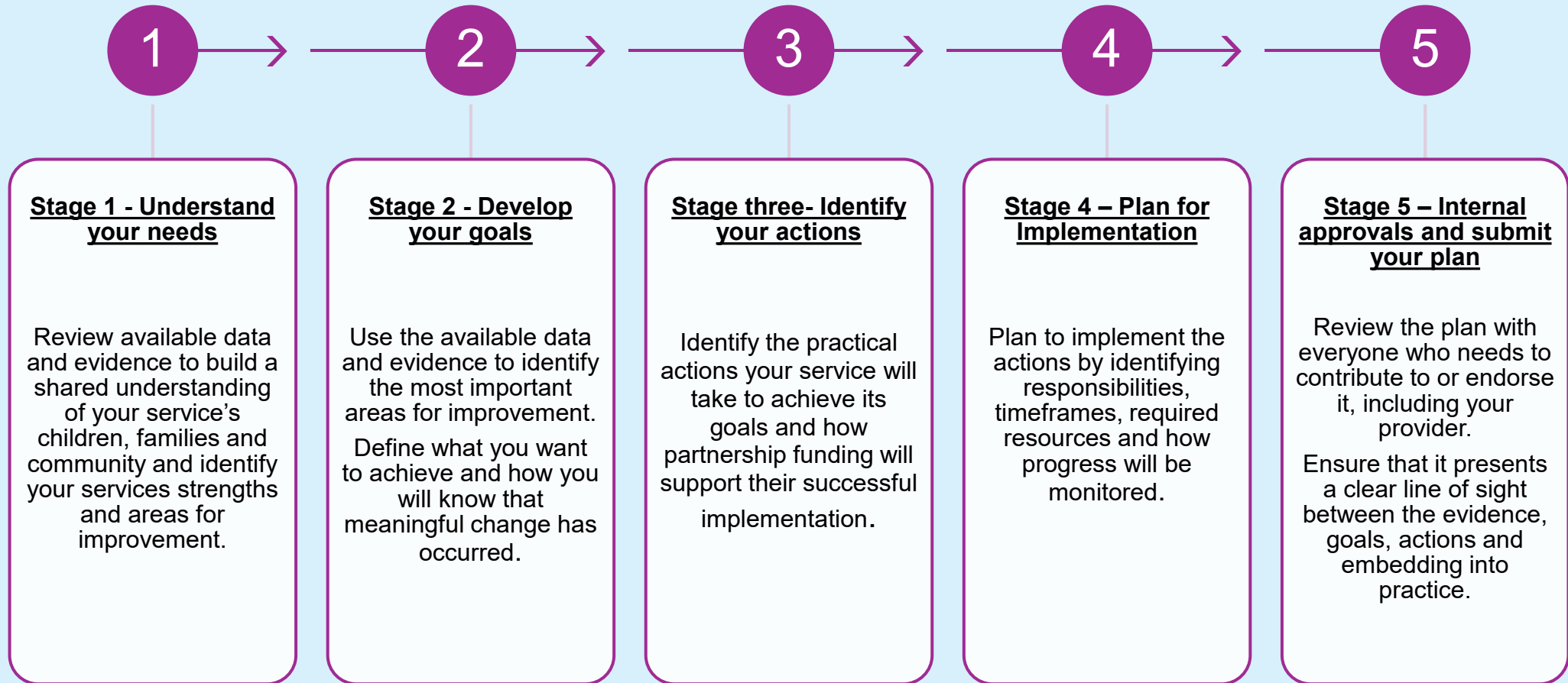
1. **Warm and welcoming**
2. **Committed to quality**
3. **Acting early, with others**

The Partnership Plan supports services to strengthen their existing practice across these three interconnected priorities to best support children's outcomes.

It brings the relevant funding streams together into one integrated, evidence-informed plan to help services connect evidence, goals, funding and actions, ensuring investment is focused where it can have the greatest impact.

Services are required to review the Policy and Funding Guide to understand their obligations under the Flying Start partnership agreement, and the support available. These partnership obligations apply in addition to your legal obligations – e.g. under the National Law and anti-discrimination laws.

Partnership Plan process



Stage 1: Understand your needs



Understand your community using data

- Use AEDC data, along with other local data to inform your Partnership Plan. This will help you to align your goals with the OECD's three key priorities.

Explore enrolment trends and attendance patterns

- Identify cohorts of children who may need support to maximise the benefits of preschool.

Build a more complete picture of local needs by drawing on other evidence, such as:

- community insights, like parent surveys, community consultation, individual learning or behaviour support plans and family feedback.
- assessment tools and population data.

Identify your strengths and opportunities

- use your Quality Improvement Plan to explore the National Quality Standard
- gather insights from other sources such as service planning documents, assessment ratings and educator observations.



Stage 2: Develop your goals

Use this data and evidence to identify what outcomes you want to achieve for children.

Your goals are about the specific capabilities or ways of working that need to be stronger and or more consistent in your service to respond to your identified needs and lift child outcomes - what does the evidence tell you about the changes that would make the biggest impact on those needs?

You will need to prioritise what you are going to focus on this year. What signs will you see in your service and in your children if you are achieving or on your way to achieving this goal?

Note: this is not about what the change is, nor how you will make this change - that is in the next steps.

You can have more than one goal per NQF standard or AEDC domain - they should align with your identified needs.

Aim for your goals to be determined by the end of August.



Helpful Tips



When setting goals, consider using the SMART Framework to create goals that are well-defined, achievable and measurable.

A SMART goal is:

- **Specific** – Clearly describes what you want to improve.
- **Measurable** – Includes a way to monitor progress or determine success.
- **Achievable** – Is realistic within the available time, resources and funding.
- **Relevant** – Aligns with your service's evidence, priorities and the relevant Flying Start priority area.
- **Time-bound** – Can reasonably be achieved within the Partnership Plan period.



Stage 3: Identify your actions

You can have more than one action per goal.

Choose the complimentary actions that will help achieve your goals.

Focus on quality rather than quantity. A small number of well-planned actions are likely to have greater impact than a long list of activities.

Ensure your actions:

- directly support your identified goals
- appropriately use the Flying Start funding streams and supports
- are realistic and achievable within the planning period
- identify how success will be measured
- And will contribute to better outcomes for children and families.

Make sure any proposed spending aligns with the funding categories and parameters and represents value for money.

Helpful tips



- Pooling Ready Set Preschool or Preschool Boost funds with other services can help to share costs.
- If you receive RSP funding and you also receive an additional allocation for Preschool Plus, you should consider this alongside your RSP planning using the flexible allocation section.
- We recommend Priority 1 to have remaining flexible funding, but we would like you to fully commit your funding in the other priorities where possible.
- Explore any additional implementation requirements that you may need to plan or budget for.
- Include any travel or accommodation in planning as these form part of your overall costs.
- Clarify the amount of educator release time and backfill needed so that planned expenditure remains within the backfill spending cap.



Helpful tips: Preschool Boost

The Preschool Boost funding stream has more planning considerations to be aware of.

The following tips will support your planning:

- Use the Preschool Boost Menu on our website to identify action options. Aim to Identify up to 4 actions per goal.
- Contact suppliers on the Preschool Boost menu to obtain quotes to inform your plan, ensuring any travel costs are also included in the quote. Make tentative bookings where possible.
- You can add up to six programs or supports as actions that will help you work towards each goal by selecting the 'Add standard page' button at the top of pages 16 to 18 under the relevant AEDC focus areas.
- If you choose to pool your funding, you only need to record your service's funding contribution.
- If you plan to use some of your Preschool Boost funding for supports not listed on the menu (off-menu spending), please ensure the Preschool Boost off-menu application form (available on the Partner Page) has been submitted and approved by your Local Team before adding an off-menu selection.
- Ensure your action expenditure aligns with the Preschool Boost spending parameters on page 4.





Stage 4: Plan for implementation

Think about how you will implement the actions in 2027 by identifying responsibilities, timeframes, required resources and how progress will be monitored.

- What changes do you expect to see?
- How will you embed these changes into everyday practice? For example, this many include establishment of governance mechanisms to reinforce learnings such as adding standing items to staff meeting agendas or establishing mentoring across teams.
- How will you measure and monitor progress? What evidence will you use?
- How will you review and adapt your plan over time?

The Partnership Plan is designed to support continuous reflection and improvement.

Aim to complete your implementation planning by end of September.



Stage 5: Internal approvals

Your Partnership Plan does not need to be perfect; however, it should provide sufficient data that funding has been strategically planned and that proposed actions are likely to contribute to your service's identified goals.

- Allow time for any internal approval timeframes.
- If you have a Provider, your Partnership Plan must be approved by them before it is submitted to the OECD Local Teams. Aim to commence your provider approval process in early October.
- Complete our Assurance and Submission page (the last page of the template) to ensure that you understand the plan requirements and validate that your plan is ready for submission.
- Submit your final approved plan by 1 November 2026 to your OECD Local Team.

Note: Your service will need to have an ECT in place to allow plan approval.



Funding allocation

Your funding allocations are pre-populated.

- Enhancing Quality funding is included for all services.
- Preschool Boost funding is included for all services, along with the relevant spending parameters.
- Ready Set Preschool funding is included for eligible SEIFA 1 and 2 services.
- Your planned spend calculates automatically as you complete the template.

Keep your Partnership Plan on hand for reference.
If you had a Preschool Boost plan last year, have that ready too.

FLYING START PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Section 2: Funding allocation

Below are the funding amounts that you have been allocated across the three priority areas that you can use to support you to achieve your goals.

Test Children's Centre	Funding allocation	Planned spend
Priority 1 (if applicable)		
Trauma Informed Practice training backfill	\$540	
Aboriginal Cultural Safety training backfill	\$540	
Ready Set Preschool Allocation	\$8,750	\$0
Priority 2		
Enhancing Quality Allocation	\$7,876	\$0
Priority 3		
Preschool Boost Allocation	\$28,500	\$0

Note: Services with Preschool Plus enrolments will receive additional Ready Set Preschool and Preschool Boost funding once enrolments are confirmed.

Recognition of Training

Please advise if you are choosing to seek Recognition of Training (RoT) for mandatory training.

Trauma Informed Practice training

☐ Do you want to claim Recognition of Training (RoT)
If yes, please submit your application by following this [link](#).

Aboriginal Cultural Safety training

☐ Do you want to claim Recognition of Training (RoT)
If yes, please submit your application by following this [link](#).

Preschool Boost spending parameters

On-menu spending:	\$14,250	50% or above of funding allocation
Funding cap for staff backfill:	\$7,125	Up to 25% of funding allocation
Funding cap for administration costs:	\$1,425	Up to 5% of funding allocation
Funding cap for off-menu spending:	\$5,700	Up to 20% of funding allocation

[Policy and Funding Guide for 2027](#)
The policy and funding guide provides the definition and purpose of each of these spending parameters.

Government of South Australia

VERSION 1.0 JULY 2026 | 4



Recognition of Training (RoT)

- Foundational Trauma-Informed Practice and Aboriginal Cultural Safety training is mandatory for educators working in funded preschool rooms and staff who engage directly with families. The training is centrally funded, provided at no cost, and supports consistent, high-quality practice across Flying Start services.
- Although the mandatory core training is not a funding stream included in the Partnership Plan, new partner services are asked to indicate in the template if they intend to apply for (RoT).
- If mandated staff have completed equivalent training within the past three years, partner services may apply for Recognition of Training (RoT). All applications are assessed by the OECD against the Recognition of Training criteria to ensure they meet the required standard.
- If you intend to apply for RoT for one or both mandatory training courses, indicate this in the designated section of the Partnership Plan template on your funding allocation page. The template includes a link to the RoT application form.
- If you plan to apply for RoT, please ensure the application form has been submitted and approved by your OECD Local Team before submitting your plan.



Before you start planning

- You'll need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader app installed on your device to complete the Partnership Plan template. The classic Adobe Acrobat Reader version is suitable. A link to download the free app is provided on the front page of the template (which will be viewable in an internet browser).
- Please do not complete the Partnership Plan template in your internet browser, as some of its smart features will not function correctly.
- Check the partner page for guidance and resources on how to complete each stage of the plan.
- Remember your OECD Local Team will support you to develop your plan. Think about who in your team should be included in the planning meetings.
- If you have a provider, discuss their involvement in the development of your plan and agree approval processes and timelines. This will ensure alignment with strategic objectives.



Key resources

- 2027 Flying Start Policy and Funding Guide
- Flying Start Partnership Plan Roadmap
- Strong Plan Example
- Ready Set Preschool Fact Sheet
- Ready Set Preschool Planning and Implementation Guide
- Ready Set Preschool Funding Categories and Examples
- Enhancing Quality Fact Sheet
- Enhancing Quality in the Flying Start Partnership Plan
- Enhancing Quality Professional Learning and Development Framework
- Preschool Boost Fact Sheet
- Preschool Boost and AEDC Fact Sheet
- Preschool Boost Accessing AEDC Data Guide
- Preschool Boost Menu Fact Sheet
- Preschool Boost Menu Catalogue
- Preschool Boost and QIP Fact Sheet



What's next – key dates



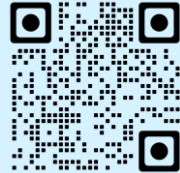
- Familiarise yourself with your Partnership Plan template, funding allocations and guidance.
- If you have a Provider, discuss how you want to work together, pooling opportunities and approval processes and timelines.
- Start identifying and reviewing data sources and insights to inform your planning.
- Your OECD Local Team will arrange to meet with you to commence the planning process.
- Submit your Partnership Plan to the OECD Local Team for endorsement and approval by 1 November.

Stay updated & connected



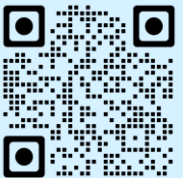
- Visit the Flying Start Partner Page for key information, and resources to support you in delivering Flying Start Preschool.

Password: FlyingStart!

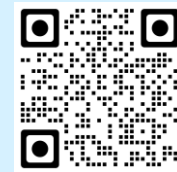


- Stay up to date with our fortnightly Flying Start partners e-bulletin, delivered straight to your inbox and monthly Flying Start Webinars.

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



- Encourage families to download the Early Years app



- Connect with us on social media – Facebook @Flying Start for kids Instagram @earlychildhoodsa LinkedIn @officeforearlychildhooddevelopment

Questions





Hints and Tips

Priority 1 – Warm and welcoming	Priority 2 – Committed to Quality	Priority three– Acting early, with others
• Develop up to 2 goals • Prepare one action per goal • If your Provider has chosen to pool funding, you will need to record your service's funding contribution and the purpose. • If you receive RSP funding and you also receive an additional allocation for Preschool Plus, you should consider this alongside your RSP planning using the flexible allocation section.	• Develop 1 to three goals • Identify up to 2 actions per goal • Please note Enhancing Quality funding and identified activities are in addition to the 2 hours per week + 2 days of professional learning provided through the Teaching and Learning Fund.	• Develop 1 to three goals • Identify up to 4 actions per goal • You can add up to six programs or supports as actions that will help you work towards each goal by selecting the 'Add standard page' button at the top of pages 16 to 18 under the relevant AEDC focus areas. • If you choose to pool your funding, you only need to record your service's funding contribution. • If you plan to use some of your Preschool Boost funding for supports not listed on the menu (off-menu spending), please ensure the Preschool Boost off-menu application form (available on the Partner Portal) has been submitted and approved by your Local Team before adding an off-menu selection.

Funding Streams



Partner services are required to plan for the funding streams detailed below.

Funding stream	Priority Area	Purpose
Ready Set Preschool (SEIFA 1 & 2 services only)	Warm and welcoming	Supports children and families to access, attend and participate in preschool.
Enhancing Quality	Committed to quality	Strengthens educator and leadership capability along with service quality through professional learning and development.
Preschool Boost	Acting early, with others	Provides evidence-informed programs and supports to strengthen children's learning, development and wellbeing.

The 2027 Partnership Plan builds on the 2026 Targeted Support Plan (Preschool Boost).



A practical example

- Example of a goal implementation process for Preschool Boost and/or Quality

