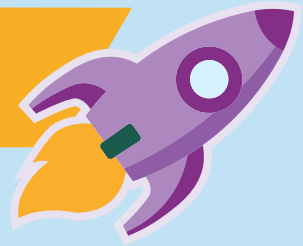


Preschool Plus



What it means for families

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.

Additional support to help your family

The Preschool Plus program includes additional support for children and families, making it easier to feel confident and supported throughout your child's early learning journey.

This includes things like:

- fee relief for eligible families, to reduce out of pocket costs of preschool
- help accessing other services and supports for your child and family
- support to make preschool more accessible based on your family's needs, including funding allocated to your early childhood service that might be able to help you with things like:
 - » essential preschool items, such as clothing, shoes or backpacks
 - » meals and snacks
 - » transport to and from preschool
 - » other supports that help children attend preschool regularly.

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.

Where is Preschool Plus offered?

Preschool Plus is available in different types of early childhood services, including:

- long day care services
- government preschools (kindergartens)
- integrated hubs (services with extra family and health supports).

How do I access Preschool Plus?

There are different ways families can access Preschool Plus depending on their circumstances. Your child may be offered a place through a referring practitioner, or through the early childhood service your child already attends.

Once a Preschool Plus place is available, your service or practitioner will:

- talk to you about the Preschool Plus program and explain the hours and supports available for you and your child
- guide you through completing the acceptance-of-offer form
- help connect you to any supports your family is eligible for, which may include fee relief, transport assistance or essential items.

You will be supported through each step, so you know what to do.

Type	Long day care services	Department for Education preschools	Integrated hubs
About	Also called ‘child care’, ‘day care’ or early learning centre (ELC). Services across South Australia are becoming Flying Start partners – this means they offer government funded 3- and 4-year-old preschool as part of their service. Some services already offer Preschool Plus – others may not be ready to offer the 30-hour program yet.	Also called ‘kindergarten’ or ‘sessional preschool’. 3-year-old preschool is being offered at some preschools now but is rolling out across South Australia over the next few years. By 2032, all government preschools will offer 3- and 4-year-old preschool.	Integrated hubs can be non-government or government services. Preschool Plus is their main teacher-led preschool program for 3-and-4-year-olds. Integrated hubs bring together preschool, health, wellbeing and education offerings so families and children can be supported to access the services they need in one place. Each integrated hub will offer different services based on the needs of the local community.
Hours	Some long day care services offer more flexible hours, including longer days and care during school holidays. “Preschool hours” however, only refer to the hours delivered by a qualified teacher as part of the service preschool program.	Government preschools offer Preschool Plus during school terms. Some government preschools may offer access to additional hours of care outside of Preschool Plus hours. This care may be delivered through integrated day care, OSCH, vacation care and rural care.	Preschool Plus hours and times for other supports and services will vary between hubs.
Fees	Fees are set by the early learning provider. You may be eligible for Preschool Plus Fee Relief or other fee support. If your child attends long day care, you may also be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy or Additional Child Care Subsidy.		
Find out more	Visit the Flying Start website to find your local early childhood service and see when government preschools in your area will be offering 3 year old preschool.		



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South Australia**



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