

# Flying Start Preschool Partners Webinar Q & A

6 March 2026

## Q & A summary

**Q: Is the mandatory training for services required to be completed annually, or is it a one-off requirement?**

**A:** The training is a one-off requirement for all current staff. However, any new staff members who join the service are required to complete the training as part of their onboarding.

We also encourage services to consider using their Preschool Boost funding to undertake additional professional development that may help address more complex or service-specific needs, ensuring staff feel confident and well equipped to support families.

**Q: If a service has booked Trauma-informed practice training, face to face, through connect. Ed. Will they still be required to do the training online via Plink?**

**A:** Services wishing to be considered for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) must request this at the time of plan submission. As backfill funding to undertake mandatory training has already been provided to services, any service seeking an adjustment during the first year of delivery is encouraged to contact their Local Team in the first instance.

**Q: Is it a requirement for services to cover non-contact time when an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) is delivering a 4-year-old preschool program with another ECT? And how is this reported in the ECT data collection?**

**A:** The requirements for ECTs for the purpose of OECD funding are the same for 3-and 4-year-old preschool delivery.



Services are required to arrange suitable backfill to ensure an ECT continues delivering the preschool program when the regular ECT is attending professional development or taking scheduled non-contact time during preschool delivery hours. In this case, the ECT providing that backfill should be included in the ECT data collection.

If the non-contact time occurs outside funded preschool delivery hours, a replacement ECT is not required for the purpose of OECD funding. In this case, as no ECT is required for purpose of OECD funding, they do not need to be included in the ECT data collection.

For further guidance on non-contact time and partnership arrangements, see page 12 of the [Flying Start Policy and Funding Guide V1.2](#).

