

Flying Start Webinar - Friday 21 November 2025

Q & A summary

Q: Can a child participate in 3-year-old preschool at one service and later access 4-year-old preschool at another service?

A: Yes. A child may attend 3-year-old preschool at one service and later move to either a different long day care or sessional service for 4-year-old preschool. However, it is important to remember that a child **cannot** be enrolled in 2 Flying Start 3-year-old preschool programs at the same time.

Q: Are services required to identify where families have concession cards (e.g., health care cards) for children enrolled in Flying Start 3- and 4-year-old preschool under the priority of access policy?

A: Services are required to apply the priority of access policy for enrolments into the 3-year-old preschool program, which includes prioritising access for children of health care card, concession card and Veteran Gold Card holders. This includes requesting evidence that an enrolment meets these criteria. For more information see page 25 of the Policy and Funding Guide. This is not the case for children accessing the 4-year-old program under Flying Start, as the Priority of Access policy only applies to 3-year-old enrolments.

Q: If a child starts midway through Term 1 2026, should they be included in the Term 1 data or from Term 2?

A: The OECD will be requesting confirmed enrolment data for the reference period of weeks 2 and 3 of each term. If a child is not enrolled in the preschool program during those reference periods, they cannot be included in that term's data, and should be included in the subsequent term's data submission.



Q: If a family seeks to enrol their child and start 3-year-old preschool for 2 days a week (i.e., less than 15 hours per week) and later seeks to increase their enrolment to 3 days per week (i.e., 15 hours per week), what are the funding implications for the service of this change?

A: Each eligible 3-year-old child can be enrolled in a Flying Start preschool program between 6 to 15 hours per week during the roll-out. Partner services will be funded for their eligible 3-year-old children (i.e., those children in the two years before full-time school) in pro-rata increments as prescribed in version 1.1 of the [Policy and Funding Guide](#) (page 30). For each quarterly data collection, services must report the actual hours a child is enrolled across the 2-week reference period and will be paid accordingly. If hours increase in the next quarter, the funding for those children will be increased accordingly in the next payment.

Q: Are Term 1 2026 enrolments automatically counted in the Term 2 2026 data collection, or do all enrolments need to be provided in each quarterly data submission?

A: Confirmed child-level enrolment data is collected from services on a quarterly basis (in weeks 2 and 3 of each term – in line with school terms). Each term, Partner Services will need to provide all confirmed 3- and 4-year-old enrolments for the reference period, with all children enrolled in the reference period needing to be included in the data submission. Each quarter this will need to be reconfirmed and updated as required. When the new EC Connect platform is introduced, there will be simplified ways to confirm or upload your quarterly data.

Q: From 2026, can families decide where their child's 4-year-old preschool funding is directed? For instance, could they choose to enrol their child in both a government preschool and long day care, and allocate the funding to the long day care?

A: The arrangements for 4-year-old preschool funding remain unchanged. If a child is enrolled in a government service for the full hours, then the associated funding will be directed to that government service. Where a family is not enrolled in a government preschool, or not enrolled for the full 15 hours, then the remaining hours may be allocated to the long day care, as per the 4-year-old Declaration and Consent form.