

# Flying Start Partners Webinar - 29 May 2026

## Q & A Summary

**Q: Can children access Flying Start preschool at both a long day care service and a government or other sessional preschool? Is this different for 3- and 4-year-olds?**

**A:** Yes, there is a difference between 3- and 4-year-olds.

Children can only access one funded 3-year-old preschool program at a time. If a child is in a partner long day care before starting 3-year-old preschool and the family intend for them to stay in that service, they will receive their 3-year-old preschool program there. Children who have not been enrolled in a long day service that is delivering Flying Start preschool, can enrol in a government or other sessional preschool.

This is different for 4-year-olds, who can enrol in preschool at a long day care service and a government or other sessional preschool up to maximum of 15 hours per week.

Flying Start sessional and long day care service enrolment data is reviewed quarterly to identify if children are enrolled in more than one funded 3-year-old preschool program at the same time, or over 15 hours for 4-year-old preschool.

Child eligibility will be covered in detail at the next Flying Start Partner webinar on 5 June 2026.

**Q: How can services manage the cost of backfilling staff while they attend professional development?**

**A:** Teaching and learning funding is the base, per-capita funding for the preschool program and supports the delivery of a teacher-led program by enabling services to uplift an existing program to become a preschool program led by an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT). The funding also provides capacity for services to meet their obligations under their Funding Agreement to deliver an additional 2 hours of non-contact time per week and 2 days of professional development per year (above award) for ECTs delivering the preschool program.

Other Backfill funding is also available to support staff attendance at professional learning activities (see page 51 of the [Policy and Funding Guide V1.2](#)), including for:



- Participation in Flying Start Professional Networks
- Aboriginal Cultural Safety training and Trauma informed practice training (only payable in the first year of a service's partnership with the OECD); and
- Preschool Toolkit - only payable in the first year of a service's partnership with the OECD.

Services may be able to use Preschool Boost funding for staff backfill where this aligns with Preschool Boost spending parameters.

**Q: What happens if a 3-year-old child is in a preschool room where Flying Start is being delivered but is not enrolled in the program? Can they still stay in the room and benefit from the program?**

Yes. Services may include children who are not enrolled in a Flying Start preschool program in the same preschool room as children participating in the program.

There is no requirement for children who are not eligible for 3- or 4-year-old preschool under the Flying Start preschool program to move to another room. However, Flying Start funding and partnership requirements apply only to children enrolled in the program, and services are required to ensure those children receive an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) led preschool program.

